Gov't, MILF to meet anew for peace talks in Malaysia

Story on PAGE A2

Shoppers unfazed by SARS scare

DI KA BA TAKOT SA SARS?
MAS TAKOT AKO MAUNAHAN SA SALE!

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SARS scare was no match to the lure of a "mega-sale."

A big crowd of shoppers, with hardly anyone in a mask, turned up at the SM

SHOPPERS/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

IN *today's issue*

- Gretchen Barretto stars as mom to Dominique LIFESTYLE/D1
- Return of Miriam Santiago SIM
- Job Market /N

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2nd Filipina dies in HK

Resident loses long hard fight with SARS

By Cherry Velarde
Contributor

HONG KONG—A second Filipino woman has died from SARS in a hospital here, Philippine Consul General Victoria Bataclan said yesterday.

The 56-year-old woman, a Hong Kong resident identified only as CY, died at 9:30 p.m. Friday at the United Christian Hospital in Kwun Tong, Kowloon district. She was taken to that hospital on March 30, and had been in critical condition for weeks.

"She fought a long and hard battle. We are extremely saddened by her death," Bataclan said, adding that CY also suffered from another ailment that her family declined to disclose.

In Manila, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said CY was "already on the watch list."

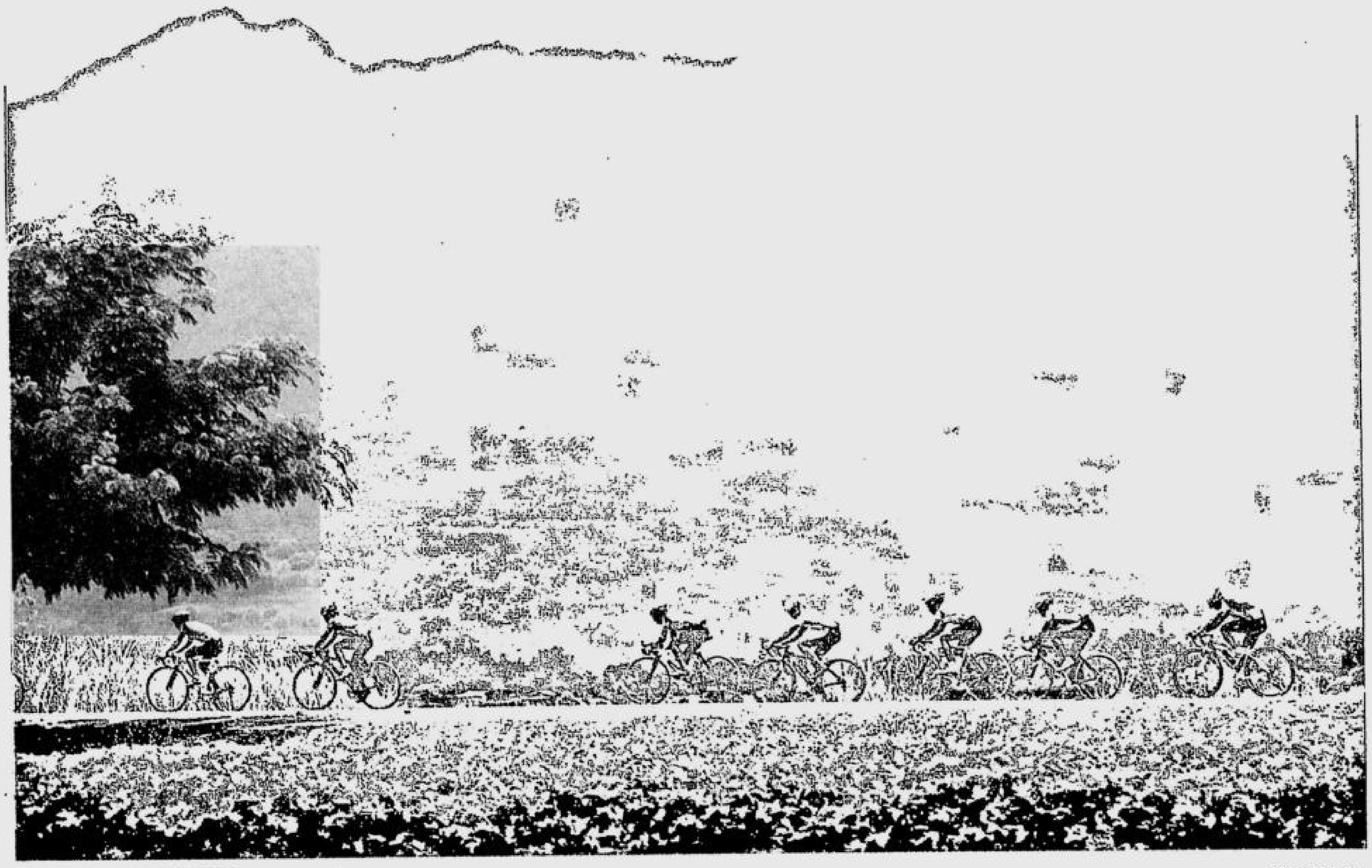
But he said the increasing number of SARS deaths among Filipinos here and abroad should not be cause for alarm for the Philippines' health department.

"We are as alert as we can be," he said, adding that health officials were more concerned about helping CY's relatives give her a proper burial and ensuring that "her confidentiality is respected."

CY lived near the Amoy Gardens housing estate in Kowloon Bay, where a SARS outbreak late in March downed more than 300 residents, 10 of whom have died.

Bataclan said that CY's husband was arranging for the cremation of the body in Hong Kong, and that CY's family in the Philippines

2ND/ A22



VAL HANDUMON

SIGHT FOR SORE LEGS
Cyclists competing in the Tour Pilipinas marathon push toward Olongapo City, oblivious to the majestic sight of the fabled Mt. Arayat in Pampanga during the bikathon's seventh lap on Friday. ***(Story on Page A26.)***

HK set to unmask to show off city of smiles

By Cherry Velarde
Contributor

HONG KONG—The face mask has become the undeniable symbol of the still spreading Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

While Filipinos in Manila are just starting to get used to the protective accessory, Filipinos in this SARS-struck metropolis are growing weary of it.

As a result, there is such a glut of masks in the market that shops have to drastically cut prices to get rid of the oversupply. A regular face mask that used to sell for as high as HK$10 (P70) can now be had for as low as $1 (P7).

Michael Ranola, 33, who manages the chain of Philippine Products Store in the city, said: "There is definitely a marked decline in demand for face masks."

At his store sit boxes filled with wrapped face masks. He has fashioned packages containing some masks and bottles of alcohol, which he sells for $30 (P210) a package.

Filomena Arnate, 61, considers a nuisance the very thick gauze mask that she wears as part of her job of distributing flyers for Jollibee restaurant in Central district.

HK/ A22

NEW YORK TIMES PROFILE

'Bubbly maverick' Kris to run for Senate in 2010

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Lifestyle Editor

TO THE many things we know about Kris Aquino—because she has talked incessantly about herself on various media—we must now add that she plans to run for a seat in the Senate in 2010 when she is 39.

In the May 3 New York Times profile written by Seth Mydans on the "Bubbly Maverick," Aquino said her mother, former President Corazon Aquino, believed it was Kris' destiny to be in politics.

"She sees that there's something in my blood that comes from my dad," Kris told the NY Times.

She also said that was why her brother, Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, resented her. "Because I'm the one," said Kris in the story that referred to her as "Senator Gidget."

Noynoy Aquino was described as Kris' "sourest critic" and was quoted as saying the whole family was distressed after scandalous reports linked her with Joey Marquez. The NY Times story, however, did not name any of the men with whom Kris has been said to be involved.

The story described Kris as "the most like her father, voluble, energetic, extroverted, optimistic - a natural politician."

In the interview, Aquino consid-

'BUBBLY/ A19

'I'M the one...my mom sees something in my blood that comes from my dad...that's why my brother resents me.'

12-day hunger strikers draw attention to GMO corn sale

By Volt Contreras

HOW to compete for the people's attention against the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and the US attack on Iraq?

Hunger strikers protesting the impending commercial sale of "Bt corn" or genetically engineered corn are hoping that their fast can re-channel public notice to what they call a "time bomb" waiting to explode in the Philippine health, environment and agriculture scene.

"Nobody's paying attention anymore to the issue of GMOs [genetically modified organisms], especially now with the SARS and the war," Philippine Greens' Roberto Verzola told the INQUIRER yesterday. "That's why we have to do something extraordinary like this."

The hunger strikers set up camp starting on April 22 on the sidewalk fronting the Department of Agriculture building on Elliptical Road, Quezon City.

Verzola, Mark Cervantes, Arma Bertuso and Luisita Esmao, members of different environmentalist groups, are subsisting on water and fruit juice. Despite the fact that five of their colleagues dropped out after reportedly collapsing last Thursday, the 11th day of the hunger strike, the four intend to press on until the government gives in or their bodies give up.

But Verzola, at 50 the most senior in the

12-DAY/ A19

PHOTOS FROM THE HURRIYET WEBSITE/YES! MAGAZINE

THE WOMAN who claims to be married to Yilmaz, Selena Gorguzel, is shown in an intimate pose with him. Below, she's with Iknaz, 3 1/2 years old, her daughter by Yilmaz.

Turkish press reveals spectacular details on Ruffa's husband

Editor's Note:The following is based on two articles in the May issue of YES! magazine, a show biz monthly published by Summit Media.

THE MUCH-TALKED about wedding of Ruffa Gutierrez and Yilmaz Bektas on March 25 in Manila was no less a buzz in the groom's native Turkey.

And the talk in the Turkish capital of Istanbul has been as spectacular as the wedding itself. *(See related story in Entertainment, Page C2)*

Jose F. Lacaba in the May issue of Yes! magazine reported that the wedding made it to the front page of the April 9 issue of Hurriyet (Freedom), said to be Turkey's leading or largest newspaper.

Written in Turkish, Lacaba engaged a Turk in Turkey to translate the report.

Lacaba reported: "The five-paragraph story, which tells of how Yilmaz ended 'his sensational bachelorship,' has the following lead":

'International narcotics smuggler Haci Muhittin Bektas' son Yilmaz Bektas got married to 1993 Miss World first runner-up and famous Philippine actress Ruffa Gutierrez in Manila. The March 25 wedding at the NBC Tent was attended by 800 people. Approximately 100 people traveled from Istanbul to Manila on a special plane chartered by Bektas.'

Lacaba's own sources questioned the Hurriyet report that around 100 Turks came to the wedding. Lacaba noted that, "Because of the sudden attack on

TURKISH/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/05/04/03

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Calapan	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy

Second FrontPage
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

FOR PEACE SAKE

Gov't, MILF to meet anew in Malaysia

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace negotiators will meet again this month to explore the possibility of resuming formal peace talks that have been stalled since February, an official said yesterday.

Secretary Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on special concerns, told Church-run Radio dxMS here that Malaysia has agreed to host the second round of exploratory talks between the two sides on May 9-11.

Gonzales said the second round of talks will try to settle "very contentious issues between the government and the MILF panels brought about by some misunderstanding over the text of the [earlier] March 29 exploratory meeting."

"We have to meet to discuss these misunderstandings. I agree that there were some gray areas in the first meeting, that is why the government has asked for another round [of talks]," he said.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, confirmed that the MILF will be sending delegates to Kuala Lumpur for the second round of exploratory talks.

"True to our commitment, we have accepted the offer to meet anew," Jaafar said.

Earlier, Jaafar had said the credibility of the government and its sincerity in solving the so-called Mindanao conflict "through peaceful and political means had been tainted," when GRP chief negotiator Jesus Dureza altered some words in the minutes of the March 29 meeting.

"It was clearly done in bad faith and undermined the peace process and the confidence between the two sides that had been built up over the years," he said.

Dureza admitted in several interviews that he had made insertions and marginal notes on the minutes, but said that both panels would still be discussing these.

Gonzales said a second round of exploratory meetings will clarify some issues and would pave the way for the long-delayed peace negotiations to continue.

"The longer we delay, the bigger the number of clashes on the ground that definitely hurt our people, the credibility of negotiators and the economy of the country," he said.

The peace negotiations bogged down after the military attacked the Buliok Complex in Pikit, North Cotabato, on Feb. 11, 2003.

Since then there have been numerous clashes between the military and the MILF, resulting in the death of more than 300 soldiers, rebels and civilians and the dislocation of some 40,000 people who were forced to flee their villages because of the violence.

Last March 29, the government invited the MILF to hold exploratory talks to revive the peace process in Kuala Lumpur.

After the discussion, both sides agreed to refrain from engaging in skirmishes on the ground, but the clashes continued in the Northern and Central Mindanao regions.

The latest encounter was the daring attack by MILF guerrillas on Maigo and Kolambugan towns in Lanao del Norte that left at least 20 people dead.

Palace mulls Balikatan in Pikit

COTABATO CITY—Balikatan exercises in Pikit?

The military's highest commander in Mindanao said Malacañang and the defense department were seriously considering the prospect.

Southern Command Chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko told the INQUIRER on Friday that defense officials were currently studying the possibility of holding war games in the Buliok complex, site of February's bloody offensive against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol earlier urged Malacañang to consider Pikit or other parts of the province for the controversial war exercises.

Also, the North Cotabato provincial board has passed a resolution asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to shift "some components" of the Balikatan to the province.

"It will give our soldiers here the needed skills in combat operations against enemies of the state," Piñol said.

Kyamko, who visited the headquarters of the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Maguindanao, said residents of North Cotabato would benefit most from the conduct of the Balikatan there.

He said development projects similar to those in Basilan would be started in the province at the onset of the trainings.

Basilan, a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, was the site of Balikatan 02-1, during which American soldiers trained Filipino counterparts on the latest anti-terrorism techniques.

Despite the addition of North Cotabato to the list of provinces where some Balikatan components could be held, Kyamko said Jolo was still the main area for the war games.

Government officials have embarked on a massive campaign convincing Jolo residents to accept Balikatan. Tausugs there have been opposing the war games, saying they vividly remember the Bud Daho massacre which the Americans perpetrated in the early 1990s. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

13 more rebels killed in Basilan

By TJ Burgonio

THIRTEEN more members of the combined Abu Sayyaf and Misuari Breakaway Group forces were killed during fierce clashes with government troops on Friday on Pilas island, Basilan, military officials said yesterday.

"The Southcom has reported 17 killed on the enemy side," Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, chief of the military's public information office, said in a phone interview.

The two gangs had been "holding their line" on a hill in the island after being attacked and pursued by elements of the Army's 103rd Brigade and Scout Rangers on Thursday, Lucero said. Four Abu Sayyaf bandits and two soldiers were killed in this earlier encounter.

Reinforcements from the Philippine Navy arrived on the island Friday afternoon aboard "patrol fast craft" to provide an off-shore blockade, Lucero recounted.

He said bandit leaders Khadaffy Janjalani and Isnilon Hapilon have not been sighted, but they were believed to be still holed up with their followers.

Military estimates place the combined forces of the Abu Say-yaf and the MBG—a breakaway faction whose acknowledged leader is jailed former Moro National Liberation Front chief Nur Misuari—at between 80 and 100.

The bandit group is believed to have fled Jolo to avoid the forthcoming fresh round of RP-US joint military exercises there.

Lucero said the MBG, headed by Ustadz Bashiri, was providing sanctuary to the Abu Sayyaf as part of their tactical alliance, a "defense strategy." The MBG had done this before, he said, coming to the aid of the bandits in Jolo during heavy attacks by government troops.

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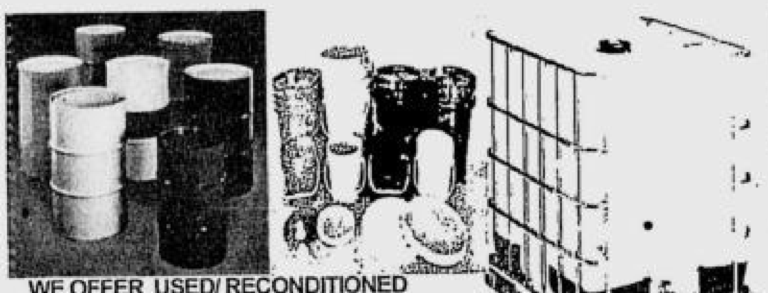

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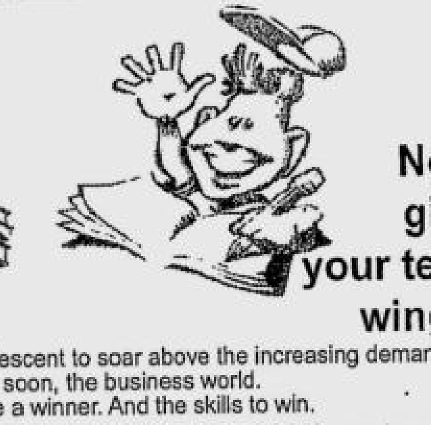

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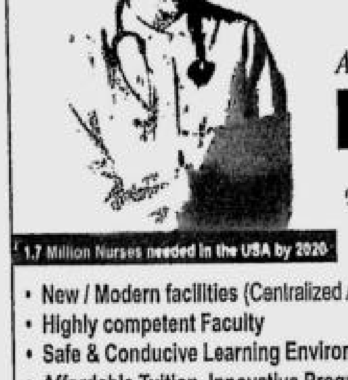

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Army refuses to aid probe of activists' deaths in Mindoro

By Michael Lim Ubac

IS THE military trying to stonewall the official investigation into the killing of human rights activist Eden Marcellana and peasant leader Eddie Gumanoy two weeks ago?

Officers of the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade have refused to give government probers headed by Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida the names of its soldiers suspected of abducting and killing the two activists on April 21.

Calida, head of Task Force Mindoro, the Department of Justice's investigating panel for the killings, told the INQUIRER yesterday that he had received a letter from the 204th IB on Friday denying that any of its soldiers had been involved in the deaths of Marcellana and Gumanoy.

"They're denying the allegations altogether," Calida said.

'No names'

Calida quoted the letter signed by Lt. Col. Reynaldo Cabigao, acting adjutant of the 204th IB, as saying that "no names surfaced" to reveal the identities of the soldiers and no vehicle belonging to the brigade had been used "to tow a passenger jeepney."

Calida had said last week that witnesses had seen armed men on board a passenger jeepney and a motorcycle maul six residents of Barangay Tambong, Gloria, Oriental Mindoro around 6 p.m. on April 20.

Asked to identify their assailants, the six men reportedly said: "They were armed but not in proper military uniform. They said they were members of the Philippine Army."

The task force believes the identity of the armed men who figured in the mauling is crucial to the investigation because this could be related to the disappearance of Marcellana and Gumanoy.

Calida said the victims' neighbors were able to call for help from barangay officials and the local police.

"When asked to identify themselves, the soldiers refused to give their names, saying they were friendly forces conducting a special operation," Calida said.

Calida said "one of them was positively identified as" a member of the 204th IB, but he did not say by who. He said the civilians were manhandled because they were suspected members or sympathizers of the communist New People's Army.

Because of the presence of the police and barangay officials, the military men hurriedly left on the passenger jeepney and motorcycle.

"But the jeepney broke down, so the armed men called for (assistance). Soon after, a military jeep arrived and towed the passenger jeepney," Calida said.

He said the military jeep had no license plates but bore the mark "SF (Special Forces) Tabak Kaagapay."

"Four to five men were in the military jeep," Calida said, adding that they were in military uniform and armed with M-16 rifles.

The following day, April 21, the mauling victims went to the town hall to file formal complaints.

They identified themselves as Rodelito Lambulito, Ramon Villaroel, Raymundo Montejo, Rimando Ricalde, Roger Sales and Rodelito Montejo, Calida said.

The six were interviewed by the town mayor, and then they were introduced to Marcellana and Gumanoy.

After interviewing the victims, the two activists left for another town where they were to document another alleged military atrocity.

"It was at this point that the two, riding in a Hyundai van-for-hire, were abducted" in Naujan town, Calida said.

Cabigao's letter to Calida was in reply to the latter's order to Col. Juanito Gomez, Col. Jovito Palparan's replacement as brigade commander, to give the task force the names of the soldiers who had figured in the mauling incident.

Palparan was transferred because of the allegations that the military was involved in the killings.

The brigade was placed under formal inquiry last week.

Survivors ready to talk on killings

TWO of the three activists who were abducted along with human rights activists Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy in Oriental Mindoro two weeks ago but survived are willing to talk.

At the same time, militant groups yesterday urged the Department of Justice to speed up its investigation into the killing of Marcellana and Gumanoy to prevent any whitewash of the case.

Francisco Saez and Melvin Jocson, Anakpawis coordinators who were kidnapped by armed men along with Marcellana and Gumanoy but were not killed, are ready to testify about what happened.

"They are ready and eager to testify before any court. We hope the Senate and House hearings would give credit to their bold appearance and disclosures," Anakpawis spokesperson Sammy Malunes said.

The House committee on civil, political and human rights, and the Senate committee on justice and human rights are set to open an inquiry into the twin slays and other atrocities this week.

Marcellana, Gumanoy, Saez, Jocson and documentary film-maker Virgilio "King" Catoy II were abducted on the night of April 21 in Oriental Mindoro while conducting a fact-finding mission on military abuses in the area.

The next day, Marcellana and Gumanoy were found dead, while the three others who had been hogtied and separated from the two were able to free themselves. *TJ Burgonio*

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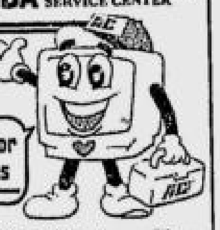

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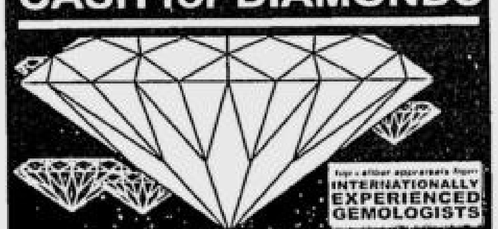

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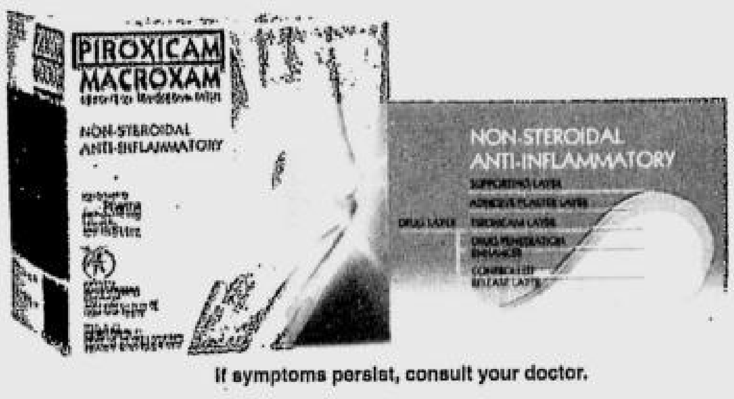
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Stung by criticism, DPWH rushes foreign-funded projects

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—Newly appointed Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez on Friday said his department was fast-tracking the completion of various foreign-assisted projects whose delayed implementation had been criticized by international lending institutions.

The Macapagal administration had also been criticized for the delays, Soriquez said during an interview before groundbreaking rites for a P20-million bridge under President Macapagal-Arroyo's "Tulay ng Pangulo" project.

He did not give details of the foreign-funded projects.

Neither does the Department of Public Works and Highways website provide any information on projects of this type.

Listed under the department's medium-term infrastructure program are projects totalling P282.843 billion for 1999 through 2004, but it was not indicated which ones were being carried out with foreign loans.

Soriquez said his predecessor, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando, had also prioritized the completion of foreign-funded projects.

NEWLY appointed DPWH Secretary Florante Soriquez PDI PHOTO

The President's bridge program, worth more than P2 billion, was faring well, he said, adding that the DPWH has built 255 bridges in rural villages around the country, and the construction of 117 more was ongoing.

Responding to queries, Soriquez said the FVR Megadike in Pampanga had served its purpose. "Lahar has not spilled (out) to Guagua, Sta. Rita, Lubao, Bacolor or San Fernando," he told reporters.

As chief of the Mount Pinatubo Rehabilitation and Mount Pinatubo Emergency project management offices, Soriquez supervised the design and construction of the 56-km structure that was started in 1996. The U-shaped megadike was meant to confine lahar flowing from the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo into the Pasig-Potrero River in western and southern Pampanga.

Legislators opposing the appointment of Soriquez called attention to an alleged lahar scam during the dike's construction. Marine geologist Kelvin Rodolfo, a staunch critic of the lahar-control works, claimed that the breaching of a 100-meter portion of the megadike in Porac town amid mild rains last year indicated weakness in the structure.

But the Office of the Ombudsman cleared Soriquez of charges over the "faulty" design of the transverse dike.

Last year, Soriquez told the INQUIRER that he needed P3 billion to strengthen the megadike. At the time, the government had already spent P3.1 billion on the structure, plus P3.5 billion of a Japanese loan to upgrade the dike's downstream portion.

Soriquez said the DPWH is now building a dike along the Guagua-Pasac River, into which four major river systems drain, including the Abacan and Pasig-Potrero.

This would not be as massive as the megadike, he said, because the lahar threat has considerably decreased.

Let Mendoza stay, solon asks GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

"LEAVE him alone."

The chair of the House committee on transportation and communications has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo not to remove Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza from office.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jacinto Paras made the appeal following reports that Mendoza was on the way out to be replaced by ex-Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

"The country would be better served if Cabinet members who are doing their jobs were left alone to do what they have been mandated to accomplish," Paras said in a statement.

He conceded that it was the President's prerogative to choose members of her official family and replace them at her pleasure. "But I believe the President can see through the ulterior motives behind most of the lobbying (for Mendoza's post)," he said.

Paras noted that Mendoza's performance at the Department of Transportation and Communications has been "exemplary." The department and its attached agencies have "improved by leaps and bounds under the leadership of the former national police chief," the solon said.

This year, for the first time, Paras said, the DOTC was not on the list of the government's most corrupt departments.

"A more efficient and dedicated DOTC has (been transformed for) better public service, increased income for government, and a much-needed shot in the arm for an economy that is heavily dependent on transportation and communications infrastructures," he said.

Paras cited the role of the DOTC and its line agencies in the fight against terrorism and even against the killer pneumonia, its "no nonsense" promotion of mass transportation systems like the MRT and LRT, the establishment of the "Strong Republic Nautical Highway" linking Central Visayas to Luzon and Mindanao through the roll-on, roll-off (Roro) vessels, and the maintenance of accessible telecommunications.

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DND/AFP Lecture 1:00 PM
AFP Modernization Program
Self-Reliant Defense Posture Program
DBM Lecture 3:20 PM
Government Electronic Procurement System
Welcome Cocktails (by invitation) 7:00 PM
16 May 2003 (Trade Day)
Exhibition Hours - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Maritime Breakfast Forum (by invitation) 9:30 AM
Communication Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Conference 9:30 AM
Lecture on Naval/Maritime Modernization 1:00 PM
17 May 2003 (Trade & Public Day)
Exhibition Hours - 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
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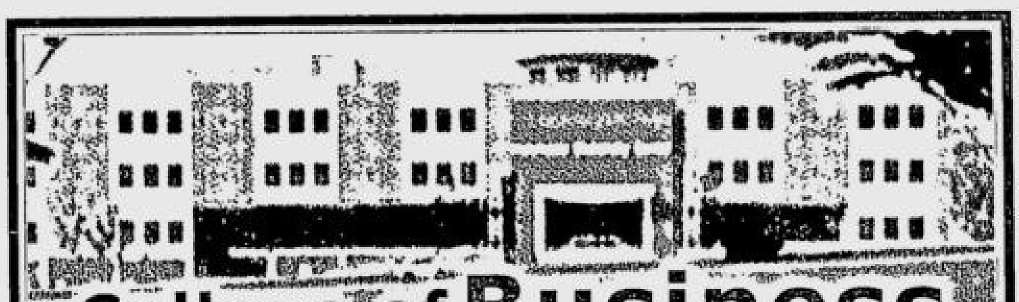

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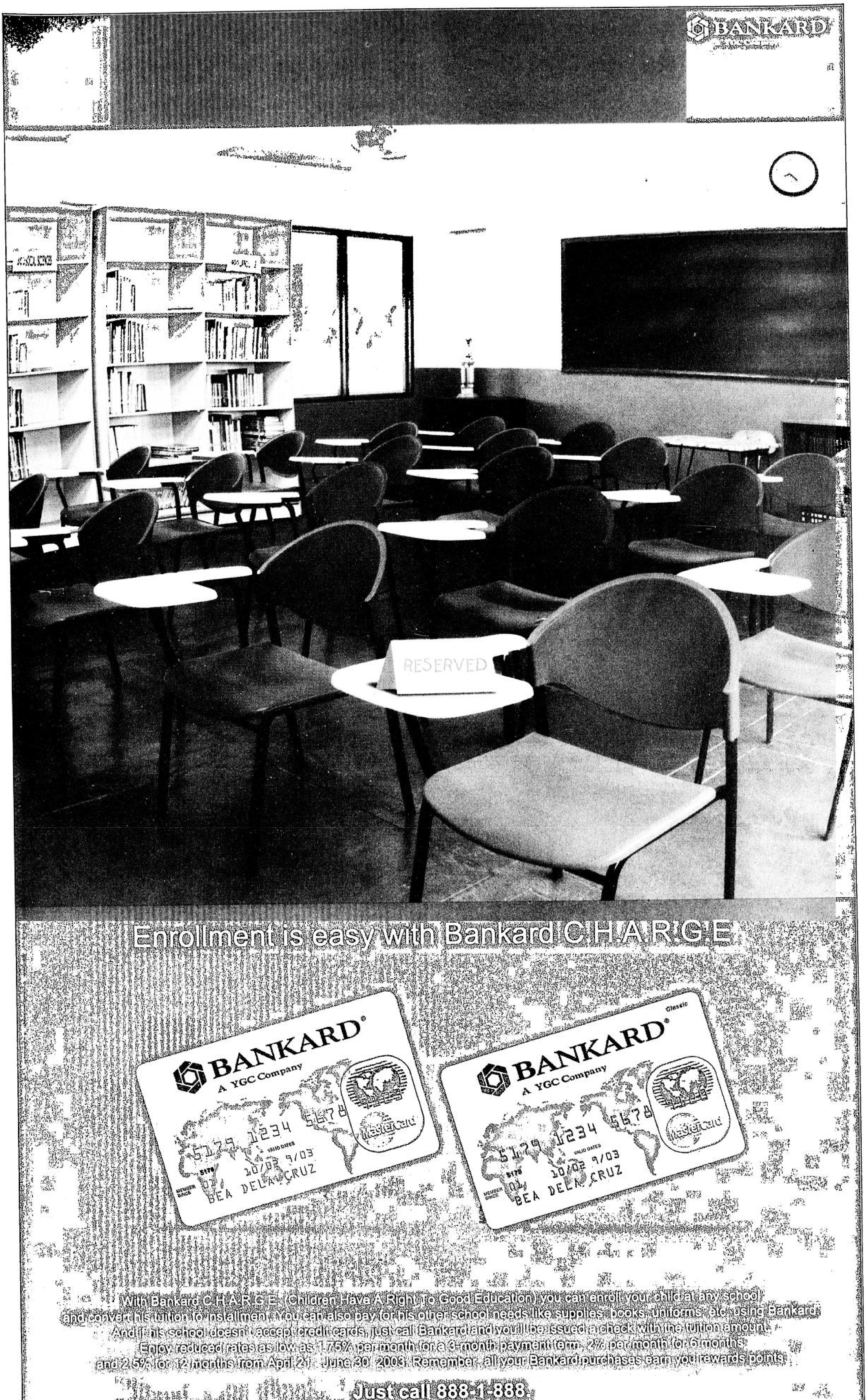

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To get 'double promotion,' cops have to be 'extra heroic'

By TJ Burgonio

NO POLICEMAN should be promoted twice within six months.

Police leaders yesterday stood pat on their decision to adopt a policy officially banning "double promotions," or being promoted twice within half a year.

The decision followed protests by Manila policemen who were seeking "meritorious" promotion for their role in the Labor Day siege of Malacañang two years ago.

Their May 1 performance had already been factored into the regular promotion, Director Jose Lalisan, director for personnel and records management, explained. To get another promotion right away, he said, the protesting cops would need to perform another meritorious act.

As a rule, Lalisan said, policemen get "regular" promotions periodically, based on individual accomplishments. They could get another promotion within the next few months only in cases of "gallantry in action," which would constitute a meritorious promotion.

But the practice has yet to be adopted as a policy, Lalisan said, and the matter would soon be brought before the National Police Commission.

In a phone interview, Lalisan noted that several policemen from the Western Police District got regular promotions this year for, among other things, their defense of Malacañang from a mob of die-hard supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada on May 1, 2001.

Some of them also applied for a meritorious promotion, citing their "exemplary service during the siege." Members of this group, which now calls itself Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, are questioning the double promotion ban.

Some policemen have the "bad practice" of putting on hold their applications for meritorious promotion until after they get their regular promotion, Lalisan said, aiming for a double promotion.

Pentagon member falls in Davao Sur

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Combined elements of the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Group in Region XI have recaptured a member of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang who bolted the city jail here more than two years ago.

Mundot Masalon, a member of the gang headed by Tahir Alonto, was cornered in Malita, Davao del Sur, on April 29.

Col. Alexander Yano, commander of the 601st Infantry Brigade, told reporters that the fugitive, a farmer in Malita, did not put up any resistance when arrested.

Masalon was turned over to jail officials on Friday, the same jail he had fled along with 67 others including Alonto during a daring attack by gang members in November 2000.

Along with Alonto, Masalon is facing charges in connection with the kidnapping of the Cavalida brothers of Davao del Sur in 1999. Interviewed by reporters, Masalon admitted being a Pentagon gang member but denied he was involved in the abduction of the Cavalidas. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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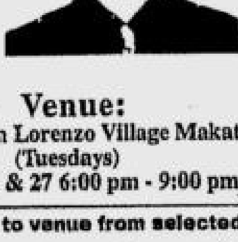

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Freedom's cost for Filipino seamen in Abu Dhabi: P7.5M

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOR 23 Filipino seamen who have been languishing in an Abu Dhabi prison for the past three years, freedom will cost P7.5 million.

National Labor Relations Commission chief Roy Señeres said the Bank of Ras al-Khaiman was asking for the equivalent of this amount in the local currency, in exchange for the seamen's release.

The men were detained after being accused of defrauding several banks in the United Arab Emirates. They were cleared after their company's accountant, Indian national Stanley Pereira, confessed to padding their bank loans and pocketing the excess amount.

But the Filipinos have remained in jail because the loans, for which they signed, have not been paid. Pereira has also been thrown behind bars.

According to Señeres, Philippines charge d'affaires to Abu Dhabi Joey Ampeso and Consul Rene Villa have been asking the Abu Dhabi bank to accept P5 million, which First Gentleman Mike Arroyo was able to raise with the help of friends.

Señeres and Arroyo have also approached UAE Ambassador to the Philippines Mohammad Ibrahim Al-Jowaid for help in getting the bank to consider the offer. Señeres is optimistic that negotiations will be concluded in two months.

The NLRC chair said the bank had originally asked for P32 million, but that Philippine officials had brought this down to P7.5 million.

The 23 seamen are Nestor Agustin, Jose Diaz, Samuel Ramirez, Renato Tejero, Edward Reyes, Leonardo Zapata, Alvin John Tayao, Johnny Villasoto, Ildefonso Amul, Frederick Caramoan, Antonio Hafalla, Rufino Sawali, Albert Dagsa, Nicasio Dagsa, Ronnie Valdez, Joel Sumalde, Paulito Gimena, Marianito Gimena, Mario Algodon, Rogelio Gariando, Marcelino Silan, Fred Vertudez and Danilo Padilla.

Embassy ordered to help Pinoys nabbed in Malaysia

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Blas Ople has ordered the Philippine Embassy in Malaysia to look into the arrest in Sabah of 22 Filipinos allegedly found in possession of detonators, ammunition and liquor.

The arrests occurred on May 1 but the consulate in Kuala Lumpur learned about it only yesterday, the foreign affairs department said yesterday.

"He (Ople) has ordered the embassy in Kuala Lumpur to send a team to look into their situation, hear their story," said Assistant Secretary Vic Lecaros, DFA spokesperson.

Lecaros said Ople ordered a consular assistance team to work with Malaysian authorities in consonance with bilateral agreements between the two countries to fight terrorism.

Lecaros said details of the arrests were still sketchy. "We don't even know where they are right now," he said.

Reports reaching the DFA in Manila said the Filipinos were on their way to Sandacan in Sabah in a private boat when they were intercepted by the Royal Malaysian Navy.

Found on the boat were 300 detonators and 216 bullets, The Associated Press quoted a Malaysian newspaper, Utusan Malaysia.

Sabah Police Commissioner Ramli Yusuff said authorities were investigating whether the cache was linked to the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group, said the New Straits Times, another Malaysian newspaper.

Several suspected Jemaah Islamiyah operatives have been arrested in Sabah since December. The group is blamed for the October bomb attacks on Indonesia's Bali island that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

When the Malaysian authorities discovered the ammunition and detonators, the Filipinos were immediately held and later taken to an undisclosed jail.

Asked if the men might be members of southern Philippines separatist or bandit groups, Lecaros said: "We don't know that, we don't know enough to say anything at this point."

He also refused to comment on why the Filipinos were carrying explosives.

As for the liquor, Lecaros said this is banned under Muslim law and Malaysia is a predominantly Muslim country. *Michael Lim Ubac, AP*

DENR stays issuance of permits to protect indigenous peoples

By Christine Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has directed all its regional offices to suspend the issuance of licenses, permits and clearances within ancestral domains to protect the rights of indigenous peoples in the country.

In a department memorandum, regional executive directors were told not to issue such documents without the acquiescence of the affected IP community, which would issue a Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC).

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said the issuance of an FPIC effectively implements certain provisions of Republic Act 8371, or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA).

"The DENR and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) are finding ways to attune their efforts toward protecting the rights of cultural communities in the country. We need to identify sources of conflict and address sectoral issues that could crop up as we implement the law," Gozun said.

The IPRA defines the FPIC as the consensus of all members of the Indigenous Cultural Communities and IPs that will be determined with respect to their customary laws and practices, free from any external manipulation, in a language and process that are understandable in the community.

The IPRA was enacted in October 1997 by President Fidel Ramos. The law establishes the NCIP which assists indigenous peoples with their claims on ancestral domains and in registering the claims in the Registry of Deeds.

The directive also requires the submission by the regional offices of a list of all issued licenses, permits and clearances covered by Certificates' Ancestral Domain Title and Ancestral Lands Title on May 15, 2003.

Based on 1997 statistics, there are some 12 million indigenous peoples belonging to 110 ethnic groups in the country.

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OPINION

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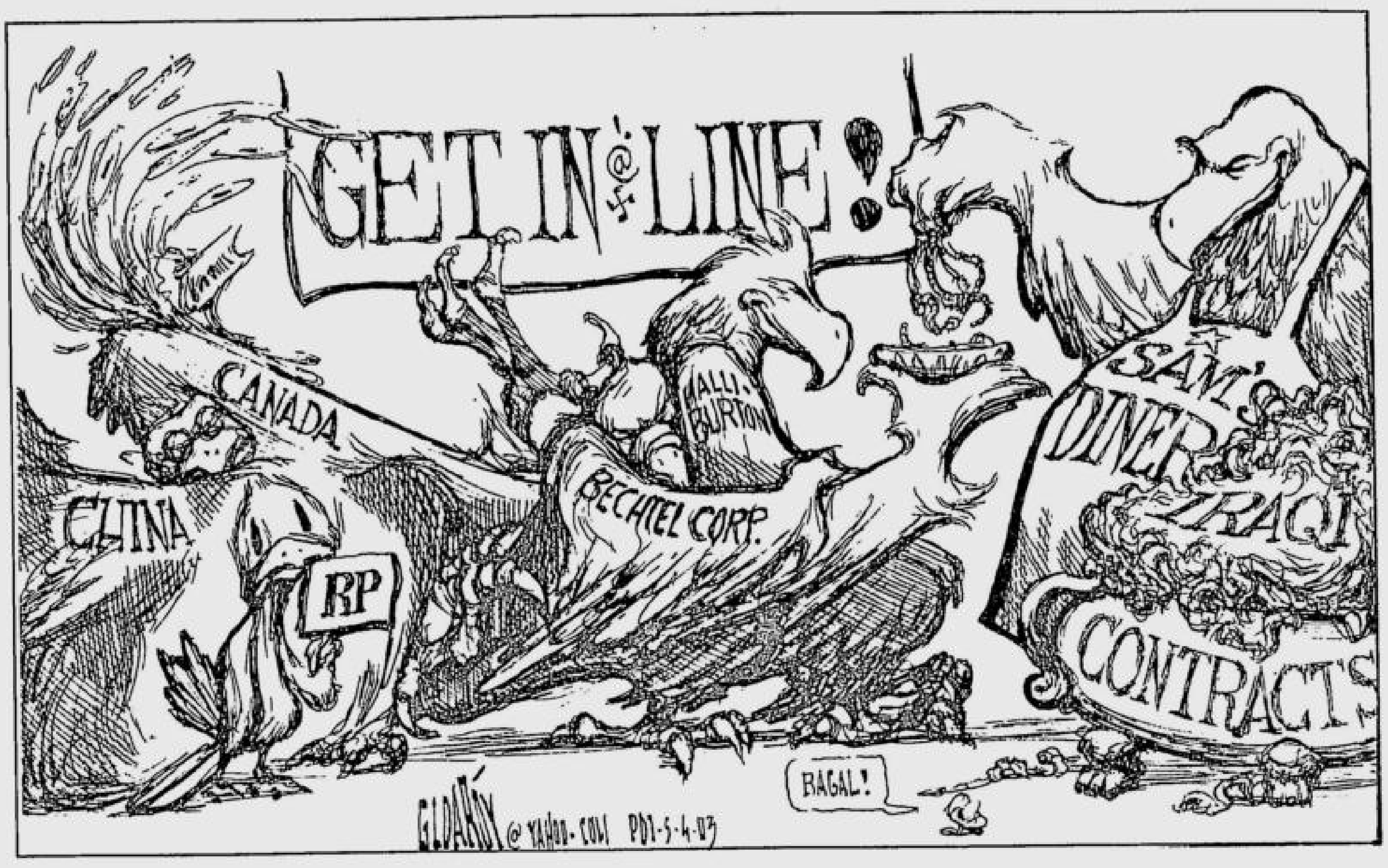

The quarantine

EDITORIALS

DID the President last week miss an opportunity to make the case—admittedly difficult even in the best of circumstances—for mandatory quarantine?

Until a cure for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus is found, the forced quarantine is the most effective tool we have to stop the spread of SARS. It is essentially a containment strategy: It works by helping minimize the number of people a SARS suspect comes in contact with. At present, mandatory quarantine applies only to travelers returning from SARS-afflicted areas who exhibit SARS-like symptoms, or people who may have fallen ill after direct exposure to SARS victims.

A SARS quarantine does not take 40 days, as the term implies, but two weeks, because the incubation period for the SARS virus has been established as lasting from seven to 14 days. As any medical practitioner or, indeed, any patient, can testify, this is the hard part: confining one's self to the house or a hospital room for half a month, waiting for the symptoms to show up. In an outbreak as serious and as mysterious as the SARS crisis, a quarantine is essentially an enforcement problem.

The imposition of a quarantine on four households in Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan, for instance, was not without difficulty. The order has since been lifted, and the President has said gracious words to commend the people in the village where SARS fatalities Adela Catalon and her father Mauricio came from, for their "sacrifices and cooperation." But the quarantine, we cannot forget, initially met with resistance.

It could not have been otherwise. Filipinos are both fatalist to a fault and gregarious in the extreme. We have a blithe regard for safety regulations—overloading ferries as a matter of routine, or failing to check a bus' brakes with any regularity—because we believe that everything that happens is a matter of fate. We see off or welcome travelers by the jeepney-load, because we are incorrigibly social, always at work at networking. In our culture, therefore, a quarantine is truly an imposition.

We must change this mindset. Our leaders, especially, must educate the public. They must lower the people's natural resistance to quarantine by sending the unmistakable message: Quarantines are not only necessary; they may well be inevitable. Every person—rich and poor, public official and individual citizen—must therefore be ready to submit to one.

Wrong call

WHEN President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived in Cebu on Wednesday after the emergency Asean summit on SARS in Bangkok, she had her temperature taken and was immediately declared SARS-free. Emboldened by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's example, the President then proceeded to shake the hands of other arriving passengers in Cebu, including those from China, the SARS virus' country of origin.

Strictly speaking, the President did not need to be quarantined, because she was asymptomatic and because she did not come from a heavily SARS-afflicted area, such as Hong Kong or Beijing or Toronto. But it is likely that she had actually decided to minimize the public's fear of SARS by setting an example. Like Thaksin, therefore, she waded into crowds without a mask on and with hands outstretched. In Alcala last Friday, she did the same thing.

Unfortunately, by choosing to highlight the danger from overreaction, she lost the perfect chance to press the case for mandatory quarantines. Hers was a judgment call, but we believe she chose wrongly. She should have submitted herself to a quarantine.

The impact of the act would have forced all Filipinos to face the truth: SARS knows no boundaries and respects no position. Until a cure is found, quarantines remain the best way to stop the disease from spreading. And Filipinos reluctant to submit to one even if necessary would have taken their cue from the President—if she had submitted to a quarantine even when, strictly speaking, there was no need for it.

Have we become a mercenary nation?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I AGREE with Sen. Joker Arroyo's opposition to the plan of Malacañang to send 500 Filipino troops to Iraq as a "peace-keeping force" to help the Coalition forces led by the United States restore order in that ravished land.

It was the Coalition forces that laid Iraq to waste, and it is they who have the responsibility to rehabilitate it. They had the money and armaments to destroy it, and they should now use their still unlimited resources to rebuild it.

Most important of all, it is the United States under the leadership of their Texas cowboy president that must help the Iraqi people to get up on their feet after the devastation of their homeland and the humbling of their spirit as a proud nation. It is the American government that must restore their pride and not the motley group of Filipino strangers who have their own problems here.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to send our "peace-keeping force" is not needed at all. The Americans have enough men and money to do the job alone. Our own offer to help may be welcomed publicly by the White House but only out of international politeness. Or maybe it is part of the American scenario to bolster the ego of the trigger-happy Bush.

If it is not, the planned participation of the Filipino troops may be nothing more than a bothersome intrusion. It may be tolerated but hardly appreciated, like the proffered assistance of other "me too" nations wooing the White House. At best, the Filipinos can once again be "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for the old imperialists. This time, they will be doing mostly menial jobs, like driving trucks and hauling equipment and debris.

And to think we will be using much of our badly-needed funds for the troops we will be sending to that distant country. They will be receiving per diems in addition to their regular pay and in dollars too. The United States will, as planned, be reluctantly but publicly contributing to their expensive upkeep. Actually, it will be a junket for these fortunate troops, who will be enjoying a tour of post-war Iraq for free.

And where will we get the money for this unnecessary expedition? The expenses will be tremendous—P600 million according to Secretary Blas Ople, and yet to be appropriated or sourced. The President is not fazed at all. She says it will be in the interest of international goodwill and cooperation, but she has forgotten that charity begins at home.

The money to be wasted on this foolish mission can be better spent for the millions of our people who need food, shelter, medicines, education for their children, and other amenities for a better life. It could also be useful in combating dissidence and banditry, particularly in our mostly unprotected rural areas.

The extra bonus of the "peace-keepers" is that they will not be risking their lives like their comrades in Mindanao. It is there that they should be going, given their supposed talents for peace-keeping that they may use to tame that restless region. And what are these talents, anyway, that made the AFP command choose them over all our other soldiers? There must have been a frenzied competition to be included in that privileged roster.

"Peace-keeping force?" Senator Arroyo asks. "How can we maintain a peace-keeping force in Iraq when we cannot even maintain the peace in Muslim Mindanao? We need those troops here more than they are needed in Iraq."

The fact is that they will be redundant in Iraq. If at all, they will be paraded before the world merely as among the idolaters of President Bush as the defender of democracy abroad. For her part, President Macapagal's gesture will embroider her distinction of being the first leader in Asia to support the American president's objective of destroying Iraq.

In demonstrating her support for the United States, our President has ignored the Bush administration's defiance of the United Nations. In offering to help the Coalition forces atone for its violation of international law, Madam President has in effect acknowledged part of the blame that it is now willing to rectify.

What makes the Philippine position shameful is that it is apparently motivated not by charitable impulses but by plain and simple greed. Everybody knows that President Macapagal is expecting a substantial dole from the American government in appreciation of her readiness to support President Bush's invasion of Iraq. The expected amount is $30 million, which is not peanuts in any currency.

So, when she goes to Washington whenever Bush is ready to receive her, she will be doing so with begging cup in hand. She may get that substantial sum for her unabashed loyalty to America but she will be humiliating the Republic of the Philippines with her mercenariness. We do need foreign aid because of our desperate needs, but not at the cost of our convictions as a free nation and a law-abiding member of the international community.

Madam President, remember the honorable example of Turkey, which refused a bribe of $26 billion for the use of its territory for the US invasion of Iraq. Let us not be counted among the servile countries that will barter their own sovereignty and disdain their national pride for a mess of pottage, however entrancing.

Masks

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE said that the disciples did not recognize Jesus after He rose from the dead because He appeared to them wearing a mask!

* * *

On the contrary, it was Jesus who had to remove the masks that prevented the disciples from recognizing Him as the Risen Lord. They were masked with fear and unbelief. He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. Jesus was so patient and understanding to his unbelieving followers. He understood their fears and weaknesses. His constant greeting was "Peace be with you." In effect, what Jesus was saying was: "I understand. Be not afraid. I have forgiven you. I am with you."

What comfort and consolation these words are to us, even now—especially now.

* * *

A lot of people are wearing masks these days for fear of contracting SARS. Last week, on my flight to South Korea, I was seated beside a woman who was coughing and who did not even bother to cover her mouth.

Alarmed by the situation, I asked her if she was okay. "Just a sore throat," she said.

All the more alarmed, I politely asked her if she needed a surgical mask. "No, I don't need one" she haughtily replied.

Gathering all my courage I said: "Ma'am, maybe you think you don't need it, but I and the people around you need it, so please wear one now."

* * *

We all have masks. More than the masks we wear for fear of SARS, we all wear masks because of fear itself. We fear to be left out. We fear to be poor. We fear to be known as we really are, and so we wear masks. And we are all very good at it. In fact, we're so good at it that we even forget we're wearing them. And so we go on with our lives filled with half truths, pretenses, compromises and subtle lies. We need someone like Jesus to unmask and strip us of our dishonesty and lies.

* * *

The key to a mask-free life is humility and honesty. If one is truly humble, one can be honest and vice versa. You can't go wrong with humility and honesty.

Is there anything bothering you right now? Start with humility and honesty, and you can see the road up ahead clearly. Without these, you will just go around, driving in circles with no direction and no end in sight.

* * *

The SARS phenomenon should lead us all to be humble and honest before God. We must be humble and honest enough to acknowledge that we have often left out God in our pursuit of human progress. As in the past, plagues and other misfortunes are just a reminder that we can't go it and do it alone. We need God in our lives. We need God in our world.

We hope and pray that the SARS problem will be solved soon, and that at the end of the day, we will recognize the presence of God in all these events happening in our lives and in our world.

* * *

Have you ever tried talking to someone who is in the middle of composing or reading a text message? How frustrating to talk to someone who is half-listening or not listening at all!

In the same way, Jesus had to be patient with the disciples who could not catch up with His Easter spirit because they were still so caught up with their Good Friday woes, fears and unbelief.

A lot of times in our lives Jesus is telling us, "Let's get going." Still we insist on staying on with our fears, woes, regrets and doubts. If you continue to listen to yourself and to your own agenda, you can hardly listen to what Jesus is telling you. Do you know why you can't hear Jesus? It's because you are too loud.

* * *

Like the woman in the story, we must look beyond what we want and what we need and see what others around us need. Personal wants and needs will never end. If we wait for them to end before we start doing our mission for others, then we will never begin. The message of Easter is clear: Lay aside your personal ambitions and get busy with your life-mission. There is work to be done. There's a big world out there waiting to be loved, so remove your masks and put on the face and the heart of Christ. Wherever you go, whatever you do.

* * *

The battle cry of the day is isolation: Check, prevent, contain and isolate SARS. Likewise, the battle cry of the Risen Lord is to check, prevent, contain and isolate SINS.

* * *

Amid the SARS scare, let us not be cruel and uncharitable to those who have contracted the disease, especially those who did so while taking care of SARS victims. By all means, be careful and prudent, but don't be mean and uncaring. Because of SARS, be in isolation, but let your love continue to be in circulation.

* * *

Just a reminder: May 11 is Mother's Day. Don't forget to remember the one person who loves you as you are, whoever you are, with or without masks, with or without SARS. Happy Mother's Day!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remove my masks and put in me your face and your heart. Amen.

More medics, fewer peacekeepers

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

IT was reported a few days ago that President Macapagal-Arroyo will meet with key American companies involved in Iraqi reconstruction work. This will be at one of the luncheons scheduled during her coming state visit to the United States on May 21. Among the participants are Bechtel Corp. and Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR), the construction arm of Halliburton, two companies which have already been awarded construction contracts by US AID. In fact, Bechtel is already involved in the dredging of the harbor at Umm Qasar in southern Iraq close to the Kuwait border.

Newsweek reports that a cottage industry has sprouted to facilitate sharing in the action on Iraq reconstruction work. Equity International (EI), which has a track record for convening meetings on war-torn areas like Kosovo and Afghanistan, is sponsoring "The Iraqi Reconstruction Conference" starting tomorrow May 5. Private groups and development organizations will have the opportunity to network with key government officials and bureaucrats overseeing the rebuilding of Iraq. US AID chief Andrew Natsios will address the meeting.

Another organization, a tie-up between Jane's Information Group and the Washington, D.C. think tank, Center for Strategic and International Studies, is also sponsoring "Companies on the Ground: The Challenges for Business in Rebuilding Iraq."

* * *

Last week, I cautioned against the sending of AFP and PNP "peacekeepers" to Iraq at a time when the situation was still volatile and there was a lot of unfinished business in the process of bringing about stability and security throughout the whole country. In truth, our presence there would be seen by Iraqis not as "peacekeepers" but more as part of an occupation force operating in their homeland.

A few days ago, US troops shot dead 13 Iraqis and wounded 75 others during an anti-American protest in the town of Falluja some 50 kilometers west of Baghdad. There were conflicting reports on the incident. Doctors at the Falluja hospital claimed that US troops opened fire on demonstrators shouting objections to the presence of the soldiers at a school which was being considered for use by the townspeople. But a spokeswoman at Central Command Headquarters in Qatar said a group of Iraqis armed with AK-47s shot at US troops, forcing them to return fire which led to the fatalities. Some quarters have questioned the use of a schoolhouse for the positioning of military forces, but regardless of the situation, the presence of agitators who will capitalize on underlying resentments, cannot be brushed aside.

Earlier, an encounter between US forces and Iraqi fighters in the northern city of Mosul resulted in the death of six Iraqis who were suspected of being paramilitaries loyal to ousted President Saddam Hussein whose 66th birthday was last Monday. The firefight, which was described as "the heaviest fighting in the country for days," had US units firing heavy machine guns and calling in helicopter gunships.

Last Wednesday, US troops in Falluja again opened fire on a crowd protesting the shooting of the 13 Iraqis, killing one, possibly two, civilians and wounding four others. In retaliation, unidentified elements lobbed several hand grenades at US positions in the same town, wounding seven American troopers. It was the latest in sporadic clashes in different parts of the country which have deflated the optimism generated by a series of meetings being held in Baghdad for the purpose of setting up an Iraqi Interim Authority. Still, President George Bush is set on declaring that "major combat operations" are now complete without making any claims of victory. There remains the search for weapons of mass destruction and the baffling question regarding their existence.

* * *

At home, the Senate has begun to question the basis for sending peacekeeping forces to Iraq. At a Senate foreign relations committee hearing, Sen. Joker Arroyo told reporters, "From the testimony of the Department of Foreign Affairs or the AFP, we were not invited by the United Nations, we were not invited by the United States occupying forces, we were not invited by the Iraqi people since there is no government now in place in Iraq. In short, nobody asked us to go there."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, the Senate defense committee vice chair, also raised the issue of command and control, asking the government to spell out the tasks and mission of our troops and what the rules of engagement are should there be an outbreak of violence in their area of responsibility.

Sen. Manuel Villar noted that while the Senate cannot stop the administration from proceeding with the mission, it can ask for some explanations on the funding provisions. There is a considerable amount involved, something like P400 million to P600 million.

These gentlemen are not the typical grandstanding clowns that we have a surplus of in Congress, and so it is important that their views be fully taken into account before a final decision is made.

* * *

As a result of the Senate action, the deployment of the 500-member humanitarian mission originally scheduled for May 15 has been deferred, according to Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye. Operating guidelines have yet to be ironed out and the composition "slightly changed" to suit the requirements of the Iraqi people, was how Bunye put it. Specifically, he said that the government has decided to trim down the AFP/PNP contingent while possibly increasing the medical participation.

Perils of semi-celebrity

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JESSICA Zafra (who now edits an excellent and entertaining magazine called Flip) once wrote about an exchange she overheard while strolling through a mall. Catching sight of her, a young woman snickered to her companion: "Trying hard Jessica Zafra wannabe."

The future dominatrix of the world uncharacteristically decided to walk away without saying anything, though she might have been feeling like taking a broadsword to the stranger calling her a facsimile, and a poor facsimile at that, of herself.

Well, such are the hazards of semi-celebrity. Semi-celebrity is when you're in the public eye but not frequently enough to become a household name. When you walk into, say, a restaurant and people do a double take, you know you've achieved a measure of celebrity. But you realize it's only semi-celebrity when you're greeted not with bright, cheery smiles but with puzzled frowns, like they're asking themselves: "I've seen that face somewhere… but where?" You can then be sure that for the duration of your meal, you will be observed, not only for your table manners, but so that those who think they know you from somewhere will somehow find the answer, if only because they don't want to leave the place still mystified and thus stay up all night with the niggling puzzle unsolved.

One of the biggest drawbacks of being a semi-public figure, I've always said, is that you can no longer eat out in public in peace. Even if no one approaches your table and asks for an autograph, you can be sure you're being observed. You can no longer wolf down that shawarma or finish dessert down to the decorative mint leaves. Worse, you can no longer poke at that nasty piece of meat that's lodged itself in the crevices of your molars.

And if you should be so unlucky as to be loudly gossiping about real celebrities with your mates, watch out, the real celebrities or their friends might be sitting nearby and tell on you! Watch out then for nasty text messages!

* * *

OTHER drawbacks of semi-celebrity:

You can no longer chill out in the mall in your loose faded shorts, ratty T-shirt and sandals worn down almost to the rubber sole. Worse, you find yourself now having to put on some makeup, even if only a sprinkling of face powder and some lipstick, even if you're only rushing to the nearest supermarket for some supplies, for fear that people will start whispering to themselves: "*Ay, mas pangit pa pala siya sa personal.*"

You can't have bad-hair days or dark moods. You have to smile at anyone and everyone, even if the credit-card company telephone goons have been hounding you day and night. I've learned to smile back at anyone who so much as stretches her lips in my direction. I once failed to acknowledge a group of senior ladies who turned out to be relatives and had my failure of omission brought up at a clan reunion.

Once, I was with my friend Girlie at the Häägen Dazs outlet in Glorietta, when I spotted through the clear glass wall three women looking my way and waving. I didn't know who they were, but lest I be branded a snob, I smiled warmly and waved back. To my surprise, they entered the ice cream parlor and headed for our table, but before I could stand and scream "Stalkers!" they started cheek-kissing Girlie. They were the friends she said she was meeting when I volunteered to keep her company. They must have thought me some kind of lunatic, however.

* * *

BUT the worst drawback of semi-celebrity is that you're burdened with all the expectations of the public without the commensurate perks that real celebrities enjoy to compensate for their loss of privacy.

You can't be broke, for one, or reveal that you've just enough money on you for gas to take you home. You can't argue with your husband in public lest rumors spread about the imminent break-up of your marriage. You can't be mean or stingy with your driver or household help because they will surely spread your most intimate secrets along the most efficient rumor network there is: the network of our beloved *kasambahay*.

An unexpected problem is your relationship with real celebrities. As a journalist, you've encountered them at one time or another, maybe even did an interview or two with them, or worse, lashed out at them in your column. How then do you relate with them socially? And how do you know they will even recognize you in person?

Politicians, I know, cultivate the talent for remembering faces and names. Or else, they're blessed like Speaker Joe de Venecia with an assistant or, better, a spouse like Manay Gina, who can be counted on to scribble people's names in little sheets of paper that she hands to Speaker Joe as he acknowledges guests at a dinner.

* * *

BUT with other celebrities, I find myself constantly introducing myself, and am often embarrassed when they laugh and chide me: "Of course, I know who you are!" This would be fine, if only they didn't sometimes follow this up with: "Please give my regards to Randy!" (Ay, they don't really know who I am *pala*!)

My daughter assures me that she finds it "cool" that strangers recognize me when we're out together. But during movie premieres, she promptly abandons me the second a camera crew spots me and asks for a reaction. (I'm often tempted to ape moviegoers in those promos, screaming "*Ang ganda! Kilig! Bagay silaaa!*")

When Boy Abunda asked me on "Private Conversations" what it was that I won't write about, I said it would be my children. When they hit their teens, I stopped mentioning their "cute" antics or personal problems. My friends have reminded me that they're entitled to their privacy. Even if, it seems, I help support the family by giving up some of mine.

Death trap on the North Luzon Expressway

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

LAST Saturday, April 26, at about 2 p.m., a Philippine Rabbit passenger bus headed for Baguio was cruising on the northbound lane of the North Luzon Expressway. Since January this year, when the road widening activities began, motorists have seen long stretches of bumper-to-bumper traffic on sections of this highway. Either the bus driver was going too fast, or was dozing off in the summer heat, or was looking at the billboards that framed the highway, he realized too late that a cluster of vehicles had suddenly appeared in front of him. He plowed through them with a force so great the bus mounted the Toyota Revo it had rammed, triggering a multiple collision involving six other vehicles.

My brother Dante's van was the third vehicle in those crashing dominoes of metal and glass. A Volkswagen Beetle filled with kids punched his CRV van from behind. So powerful was the blow that the CRV flew and landed on its side, trapping my brother, his wife, youngest daughter, the driver and the house help inside. They had to quickly crawl out of the window of the van because the gas had started to leak and could set off an explosion. Though shaken, he and his family luckily suffered only minor bruises and scratches. Three passengers in the Volkswagen were seriously injured. Two from the flattened Revo died instantly.

It is not the first time an accident like this happened, and it will likely not be the last. Two weeks earlier, another collision involving a gas tanker occurred in almost the same spot. The pattern is similar: The driver of a speeding vehicle realizes too late that the vehicles looming on the horizon are barely moving and he is coming up too fast. If a bus driver, with a higher and wider view of the road ahead, can fail to see the danger before him early enough to slow down, one can imagine what the view is like from the driver's seat of a small sedan. The April 25 accident happened in broad daylight, when visibility was at a maximum. What would it be like when the rains come?

The North Luzon Expressway rehabilitation project is long overdue. The shameful condition of this 30-year-old vital highway is an eloquent symbol of the unremitting decline of public infrastructure in our country since Marcos. The foreign private contractor that is undertaking the widening project seems to be doing an excellent job. The construction is proceeding quite fast. In contrast, the Philippine National Construction Co. or PNCC, the government agency in charge of our expressways, has shown an incredible numbness over the supervision of the highway.

The lack of early warning signs and blinkers in areas of anticipated traffic concentration is appalling. The paucity of personnel to oversee the flow of vehicles especially in those portions where counterflow is enforced is criminal. Not surprisingly, the fatal accidents occur least during the long holidays when the flow of people to the provinces is heaviest. The reason is simple: this is also the time when the private sector is mobilized to assist in ensuring the safe and smooth flow of traffic.

Our highways need not be the death traps they are today, despite the terrible quality of our roads. The PNCC has to hire more experienced traffic minders to guide motorists, even if only for the duration of the ongoing roadwork. It has to install moveable warning blinkers to alert oncoming vehicles to heavy traffic ahead. It has to stop using those lightweight plastic traffic cones in the middle of the expressway because, even when filled with sacks of sand, they are easily knocked off by the suction created by speeding trucks and buses. Scattered in the center of a fast highway, they pose a grave hazard.

Counterflow is a very dangerous maneuver to encourage in an expressway, especially in a culture like ours where impatient motorists need no prompting to resort to it at the slightest sign of traffic. If it has to be employed at all, the PNCC must make sure that the points where the lanes merge back into one lane are adequately supervised. The absence from the Filipino consciousness of the norm of alternating entry, where drivers dutifully await their turns when joining a fast lane, complicates things at the endpoint of counterflows. This is the reason why in our country counterflows always trigger gridlocks at the merging points.

On that fateful Saturday, I was on my way home from Dinalupihan in Bataan. It took me four hours, instead of two, to reach Manila because of the counterflow. The traffic was however worse on the other side. I did not realize that among the endless line of vehicles that clogged the northbound lane of the viaduct near the San Simon exit was the wreckage of my brother's van. The traffic on the northbound lane stretched from Balintawak to San Fernando, easing up only in some portions near the Sta. Cruz interchange in Bulacan. It must have taken those hapless weekend travelers all night to traverse that slow corridor misnamed the North Luzon Expressway.

On a normal weekday, especially in the early morning, the rustic scenery along this highway is actually awe-inspiring. My favorite view is that of the mystical Mt. Arayat rising above the verdant flatlands of Central Luzon. I do wish, however, that the PNCC, even as it makes the expressway safe, would tear down those ugly billboards that mar our view of this solitary mountain. In fact, it would not be a bad idea if it banned all billboards from the expressways, not only because they pose a real danger to our health but also because they subliminally and unfairly intrude upon our most unguarded moments.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Beyond healing

COMMENTARY

Bernardo V. Lopez

DORIS (not her true name) came to Sr. Raquel Reodica, RV. because she had heard about the many people with termin cancer she had healed in the name of the Lord. She did n know, like the rest of the 50 odd people who came earli that there was no healing session on that day.

Sister Raquel decided to accommodate the small crowd.

Doris had advanced cancer of the stomach. She had huge lump in her stomach. She vomited all the food given her. She had no more appetite and could not sleep. Once a week, she had a blood transfusion and was very weak. Pain killers had r more effect on her. She was constantly in such extreme pa that she wanted to die. She prayed to the Lord that He tal her and relieve her of her extreme agony.

Her doctor at the UST Hospital wanted to remove tl lump in her stomach. But the operation was expensive ar she neither had the money nor the assurance that she wou live after the surgery.

At the Mother Ignacia Healing Center in Novaliches, Doi made a grand entrance and everyone was staring at her. Sl had no wheelchair and her two sons assisted her as sl walked, her face contorted in pain. She was in so much pa that she could not even look up to the crowd or say goc morning.

"*O, bakit ang asim ng mukha mo?*" Sister Raquel asked.

Doris could not answer and simply stared at the nun wi a pained look. Then she started relating her case. She sa that the cancer had started spreading throughout her enti body, and that she had stopped her weekly blood transfusic because she had no more money to pay for it. "*Bahala na* she said.

Sister Raquel told her: "*Huwag mag-alala. Baka may kat pusan ang dusa mo. Ang Diyos ay mabait* (Don't worry. Pe haps there is an end to your pain. God is good)."

Sister Raquel told Doris to face the statue of Mother Ma and then touched her stomach. While grimacing in pai Doris noted that the nun's hands were very hot. Her sc urged her, "Ma, trust in the Lord."

"Repeat after me," said Sister Raquel. "*Mahal na Hesus, ngalan ni* Mama Mary *at ni* St. Joseph, *at ni* Mother Ignac (the foundress of the RVM order who is presently up for bea ification in the Vatican), *tulungan Mo po si* Doris (Dear Jesu in the name of Mother Mary and St. Joseph and Mother Ign cia, please help Doris)."

Sister Raquel continued, "In the name of Jesus, I free yc from sickness and pain. *Layas* cancer! *Layas* pain! *Ngayc din*! Out! Out!"

The nun moved her hand as if she were throwing Dor sickness to the floor. Then she stomped her foot as if she we stepping on the sickness she had thrown out. Doris repeatc the motion.

After 10 to 15 minutes, Doris' face lighted. She smiled fc the first time. She whispered to Sister Raquel that the pa was suddenly gone. Sister Raquel told her to announce it the crowd.

When she did, everyone clapped.

Sister Raquel then performed a healing bath on everyor one by one. She poured about five scoops of water or a sma pale of water on each of them. Everyone grimaced from tl cold.

When the turn of Doris came, the nun told her to pra what she liked to say to the Lord. Doris said, "Lord, use th water to melt my *bukol* (lump). *Bukol*, get out! Out!"

Suddenly, she screamed to the crowd, "No more *bukol*, r more *bukol*!" She knelt in front of the statue of the Sacre Heart.

The crowd started to cry and shouted, "*Kami rin, kami ri* (Heal us too)!"

Sister Raquel was challenging the entire scientific wor of pain killers, chemotherapy, radiation, blood transfusic and operation with her shouts of "out," her stomping ritu (borrowed from pranic healing ritual), and her healir bath.

Doris, a graduate of the University of the Philippines, w formerly a skeptic. But in her despair and pain, she was wi ing to try anything.

The Lord heals even skeptics, said Sister Raquel.

Doris returned after a week on a healing day when a tho sand, not 50, came, and thereafter, she visited the nun reg larly. The gloss of her skin came back.

Instant healing, like that of Doris, rarely happens. Son attend the healing sessions for months before experiencir gradual healing. Some are healed only half-way.

"How do you explain a miracle?" says Sister Raquel. "Gc did it, period. We do not explain miracles. We only exper ence them."

As for the rituals, the nun explains that these physical a pects, like the water and the towel they use, and the pran rituals, and the shouting and stomping of the feet, are sens al vehicles to healing. Water in itself does not heal, she e plains. It is faith that heals. But water has a role. "Ninet nine percent of those who go through the healing bath fe the Lord is healing them through the cleansing process of tl water." In a sense, the bath is a powerful form of prayer.

Sister Raquel, who is as much an evangelist as a healer, is powerful speaker. She can mesmerize a crowd for hours wi her anecdotes. In truth, she is the only woman-evangelist the whole of Asia; evangelism is dominated by men. And h style is very simple. She can mix profound messages with h mor instantly.

Sometimes people complain that her stories are endles impatient to see the one-on-one healing begin as the crow is getting bigger and it is getting late. But Sister Raqu knows the importance of spiritual preparation to healin which is done when people internalize the message of tl anecdotes of the relationship of faith and spiritual cleansir to physical healing. So she is not just being humorous. She paving the way for the spirit to reach out to the Lord, withoi which healing cannot be achieved.

"*Sa totoo*, physical healing is only a bonus," she say "That is just the attraction, the appeal. The goal is really tl return to the Lord. I see a profound change in people who a healed. They are no longer cranky. They are more patien They begin to smile. They begin to realize the importance giving to the poor. People around them notice this b change."

In a sense, it is a spiritual renewal, a spiritual transform tion that Sister Raquel is talking about, which is by far mo important than physical healing.

Sister Raquel was scheduled to go to the United States a one-month healing mission this April, but her trip was pr empted by SARS and the war in Iraq. Although she may leav any time, healing sessions tentatively begin on the first Sa urday of June, if she does not suddenly leave for the Unit States.

If you want to attend healing sessions, you can confir the schedule by texting an inquiry number after April 30, you can inquire by e-mail at eastwind@edsamail.com.p For Globe cellphones, text "JESUSHEALS" to 2355. F Smart, text "mytxt(space)JESUSHEALS" to 211.

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TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Has texting become a vice?

SHORT messaging service is a big hit in the Philippines so much so that it has earned the distinction of being the "texting capital" of the world. In less than a decade, cellular phone service has attracted 15 million subscribers. In contrast, the country has less than three million landlines, a service that has been available for about a century.

Initially a status symbol, the widespread use of cellphones has transcended class. Residents of gated communities use them. Political and religious leaders use them. So do professionals, overseas Filipino workers, drivers, students, retirees, kidnappers, snatchers, soldiers and communist and Moro rebels.

Texting is hugely popular because it is a cheap and simple means of communicating with anyone with a cellphone, who can be in or out of the country, at any time of the day.

For a number of people, however, it has become an addiction or a vice. A nationwide survey conducted by the De la Salle University has found that 17 percent of the respondents consider themselves "text addicts."

Students have been known to scrimp on their lunch allowances so they could buy cell phone prepaid cards. Others steal, or sell their bodies.

The "over-consumption" of prepaid cards and other cellphone services has led a group of college students to launch a campaign to persuade the youth into thinking twice before availing themselves of these services. Cellphone companies may not welcome this campaign, if it succeeds, as it may affect their bottomline.

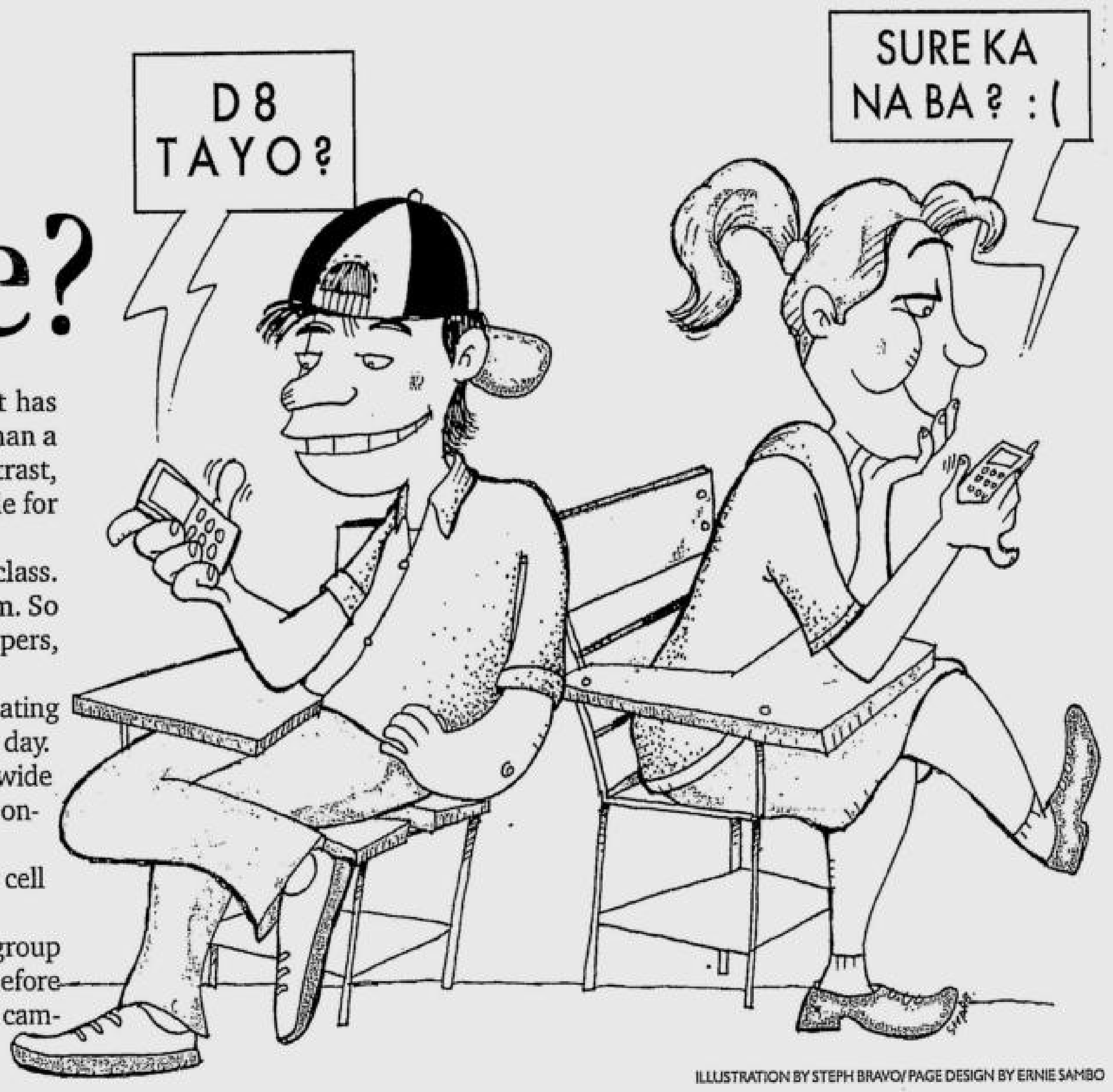

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/ PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

'Let's think twice and be in control'

By Anna Castro
Communications student
University of Asia and the Pacific

SMART Communications' value-added services have been renamed "Addict Mobile." Our good old friend Webster says an addict is "one who is devoted or surrenders oneself to something habitually or obsessively (such as a drug)."

With the latest cellular phone technology coupled with the need to stay connected, are we all gradually turning into text addicts?

Look at recent issues of newspapers and you'll see just how much Smart and Globe are spending on advertising. Practically every section features an ad for the latest trivia game, colored wallpaper, ringtone/polytone and logo download, or a chance to text with your favorite celebrity, or if you'd rather, God.

This isn't a joke, the ad reads "TXT GOD 2DAY," and with a single text to 463, God will reply with a "Hello There! M Glad I gave you thumbs to text! Hehe." This effort is a joint project of Smart and Caritas Internationalis, a Christian foundation.

They may have good intentions but the medium is questionable. If you really want to help, why not give time or take that P5 you may spend on texting, collect it over a period of time and give a bigger donation?

I'm due to begin studying for my master's degree in Integrated Marketing Communications in June. Last semester, a Communication Ethics project prompted me and three of my classmates to create an awareness campaign cautioning high school students against over-consumption of Smart and Globe's value-added services. The youth today are living in a highly materialistic world where happiness is often equated with having.

I'm not against Smart and Globe. I'm aware that as corporate enterprises they are licensed to advertise whatever services they are capable of providing. The awareness campaign I am involved in focuses on communicating the reality behind the attractive and appealing services. The reality is often times clouded by a downloadable game or a feature, which would allow us some semblance of individuality with our phones. But they really aren't needed.

The campaign THiNK TWiCE invites high school students to do just that. We have put up our own website *http://www.geocities.com/sdlthink2x,* where people can find out more about the campaign and post their own questions and comments. In the first two months of the campaign, the site already garnered more than 850 hits.

Let's face it. Big business is shaping youth culture and many of us are falling for their services. What we see advertised on TV or in print will not always present us with the promised results. We may even get shortchanged, or lured into joining a text-in trivia game because we feel that we are on the brink of victory. How many times has it happened? In joining these trivia games your prepaid credits disappeared or your total bill made you put off going out for an entire week. There have even been cases involving poor urban youth who skip meals or steal so they can buy credit to text.

Last Holy Week, I was taken aback by the heavy presence of Smart and Globe in Boracay. Globe's G icon was on every other sailboat marking the blue waters of Boracay while Smart strategically had a chopper graze the island's shoreline every afternoon viciously screaming at each person what he was: "Addict! Addict! Addict!"

What is needed is knowledge. We must enlighten those who may not see the relevance of thinking twice. Some may not need a warning. But the ads will keep coming and it's only fair that we know what we're getting into. Is the downloadable ring tone of JLo really necessary? How about colored wallpaper? Each download will coast you P20, the same price as a McDonald's McFlurry! A P30 downloadable Atari game for Globe handyphones could otherwise be spent on commuting all over the metro via MRT. If we get a logo of the No. 1 box office movie today, will we have to change it next week?

Don't let them label you an "addict." Let's think twice and be in control. Only then can we disprove their claim that we are "getting high on their content."

> *'The globe has conquered me. I lose about half of my weekly allowance to text messages. My solitary life belongs to the sanctuary of coded meanings of my every message'*

'I am a text addict'

By Melissa Catherina M. Mañalac
Incoming 4th year college student
University of Sto. Tomas

THE FOLLOWING explains why Juan Paolo has insulated himself from what he considers a threat to his health—me.

Okay, so I am sick. I get my highs and lows when I let my fingers do the talking. My words are like bullets that could either wound or kill a million innocent people who don't really need my nagging through texting.

You have to say it right there and then, or the moment passes you by.

I breathe my deadly words into them any time of day that I dictate. I am their tormentor, sending them too many messages all at the same time. I do this as I am a child of neurosis each night, especially when the full moon is up.

The globe has conquered me. I lose about half of my weekly allowance to text messages. My solitary life belongs to the sanctuary of coded meanings of my every message. This is how I am—a mystery.

Once I key in the words I know I dominate a certain sphere that I claim my own. Whenever I text people, I live for the "truth"—unedited and spontaneous, unlike most of written works on paper. I could text like there is no tomorrow. Texting is like energy that stirs up my soul, like food that keeps me alive. It has pained me many times, but it is just like love that I could never live without.

I am a text addict, and this keeps me absolutely alive.

'Text is what we make it'

By Mon Isberto
Public Affairs Head
Smart Communications, Inc.

IS TEXT addictive? Text is what you make it. It can be a lifesaver, but it can also be toxic. It really depends on what it's used for.

I respond in this way because the question of "text addiction" seems to refer mainly to the frequency that people use SMS. Meaning, text junkies are supposed to be those who text "all the time" or "too much" or "excessively."

Yung tipong, magkakatabi na, nag-tetext pa. (A note of caution: what is excessive to some is not for others. Young people tend to text more. But older folk are catching up.)

My own thinking here is that the frequency of texting is far less important than the purposes that people use the service for. And I will argue strenuously that text has been put to many laudable uses. To just cite a few:

Farmers and fishermen use this efficient yet inexpensive service to check where the best prices for their produce are. Parents use text to keep in touch with their kids. And not only for mundane purposes. Kids sometimes use text to tell their parents things they can't say in person. And how many times have you had to send a text message to say you will be late for a meeting? Small things that make life a bit more pleasant and manageable.

These examples help explain why people cannot get through their day without texting. It's not because it's "cute" or "cool" to text on the latest fancy handset. What really matters are the relationships with people they cherish, or, the activities that are important to them. Text is just a means for people to maintain those relationships and indulge their interests.

Text has its downside, of course. Some schoolteachers say text is causing students' language skills to rot. That is debatable. There are however plenty of clear-cut cases of abuse. Some people have used text to stalk other people. To send nasty notes meant to offend and harass. Others have swindled people through text. We need to check these abuses when they occur.

A frequent cause of concern for the authorities is the way text messages can spread rumors that confuse or mislead the public. Remember the Pope? Well, now, it's SARS. The speed at which news - and rumor—can travel through text understandably creates the impression that text is mass media.

Well, it is not mass media. Because in mass media, the message is broadcast from one source—it's the TV newsreader, the radio commentator or the newspaper editor who determine what is said or shown. With text, the message being circulated simply dies—if the persons receiving it decide not to pass it on. In the end, text is a deeply personal act. It happens only when individuals make it happen.

'It's not a vice'

By Jones T. Campos
Head, Public Relations
Globe Telecom

WHEN Globe introduced Short Messaging Service in 1994, it was a special feature of the GSM technology. At that time, pagers were standard gadgets for a lot of people as cellphones were very expensive. But when buying a cellphone then with a texting feature became talk of the town, Globe started a "revolution." You were not "in" if you did not have a Globe.

Texting is consumer-driven. Statistics show that a cellphone user sends an average of 15 messages a day. (Exclude the holidays like Christmas, New Year or Valentine's Day.) Aside from the FYIs, jokes, quotations, inspirational missives and graphics are the most commonly sent messages. Filipinos were stifled during the era of telephone monopoly, but the public now is out with a vengeance calling, texting, communicating, gaming, shopping, etc. As a result, the country has been called the "texting capital of the world."

Who can forget Edsa II when in a matter of minutes, the Filipino people were mobilized through texting into converging at the Edsa Shrine to protest the non-opening of the second envelope at the Senate impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada that eventually led to his downfall?

Politics aside, one wonders how long this phenomenon will last. Or has it become a vice as some think? Or maybe an "addiction" as another company so proclaims?

For as long as man is a "social animal," texting is here to stay. We can even say now that texting has become the simplest, the most economical, the easiest, and perhaps the most widespread form of communication—what with some 15 million subscribers of late. It's spontaneous and real time, too.

So we ask, what's the big deal about texting when it is synonymous to communication? We really are a communicative society, thus we use texting a lot! So when values or priorities change because of a means to communicate, we cannot blame it on texting. So what if Maria saves a few pesos to load her 3210? Or James foregoes a snack? The end in view is not to run out of load, especially for pre-paid subscribers, who account for some 90 percent of the cellphone universe. To be "low-bat" is already a cause for panic for many, how much more running out of load.

Texting is not a vice. Not an addiction, either. It has become a natural way of communicating or responding with a lot of spontaneity or urgency.

'Texting provides privacy and intimacy'

By Dr. Eduardo F. Ugarte
Professor, History Department, De La Salle University-Manila

ALMOST a decade after cellphones were introduced in the country, Filipinos have yet to come up with a generally accepted set of rules that will control their usage in public spaces. Although we sense it is improper, and despite laudable campaigns to alter our behavior, many of us continue to send and receive text messages and field calls on inappropriate occasions and in unsuitable places: in churches and classrooms; at the theatre, restaurants and the movies; when we are with others; even when we are driving.

This, despite the frequent triviality of such messages and calls. Perhaps Smart is right to represent our taste for texting as an "addiction." Where does it come from, this need or desire of ours to remain always accessible, in potential touch with others? Does it predate the cellphone's advent? Or is it in fact a product of the new mobile information technology?

In our research for the book "Txting Selves: Cellphones and Philippine Modernity," a team headed by R. Pertierra explored these and other questions. We were not interested in judging texting, but in delving into its nature, causes and impact on Philippine society. We found that the Filipino interest in texting and cellphones is the result of the convergence of several factors.

The immediate success of cellphones in the mid-1990s was due to the woeful PLDT service. Since then, cellphones have become popular because of their usefulness in serving and meeting a great range of purposes and needs. For all the frequent silliness of text messages, texting represents a remarkably cheap and efficient way of keeping in contact with others and of transmitting information to a large number of people.

Activists and powerbrokers from civil society, business and political groups, and the military at Edsa II skillfully exploited these capabilities. Texting also provides the anonymity, privacy and intimacy for people to deal frankly with taboos and other delicate topics, to explore their sexuality and to enter into novel virtual relationships.

In addition, there are other factors relating to local norms and the conditions of globality. Philippine society values sociability over privacy, so any technology that enhances connectivity is likely to succeed here. Moreover, cellphones help us remain grounded in an unstable and rapidly changing world.

Faced with the dizzying chaos, uncertainties, transformations and meaninglessness of the modern age, we find it easier to operate with the support and companionship of our relatives and friends. By allowing us to maintain contact with our significant others, cellphones help us cope with our isolation, insecurities and confusion. This accounts for the recurring banality of texting exchanges, in which the information conveyed is often less important than the fact that contact has been achieved.

To speculate on whether texting has become a problem—a vice or an addiction—is beside the point. Filipinos text for a variety of reasons, and will continue to do so for as long as those reasons and mobile phones exist.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US forming Iraq stabilization force

WASHINGTON—The United States and its allies are forming a multinational force to "stabilize" Iraq and will not seek a United Nations mandate, a senior US official said Friday.

Iraq will be divided into three sectors to be commanded by the United States, Britain and Poland, which will enlist other countries to provide forces to secure the peace, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The thought is the force would be generated by a coalition of the willing on a bilateral basis," said the official. That would exclude a UN-backed force.

British Defense Minister Geoff Hoon set the plan in motion at a meeting in London Wednesday of 16 countries, Britain, the United States, 10 other Nato members and four non-Nato states.

France, Germany and Russia—which opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq—were not invited to the "Initial Coalition Stabilization Operations Conference."

The official said no UN mandate would be sought for the force but if some countries felt they needed a Nato umbrella to participate it would be taken up in the alliance's defense planning committee. France is not a member of the committee and so could not use its veto.

Asked whether France, Germany and Russia were being excluded as punishment for their opposition to the war, the official said, "That's one view."

"Another explanation is that they just didn't offer anything," the official said.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who returned to Washington Friday from a weeklong trip that included a stop in Baghdad, held talks earlier in the day in London with Hoon and Prime Minister Tony Blair about the UN role in Iraq.

The official said there was a consensus in Washington that the UN role should be restricted to "what it does best"—humanitarian affairs, dealing with refugees and internally displaced people, and reconstruction.

A draft UN resolution has been devised to frame the UN role in Iraq, he said.

"There is complete agreement in the government on how to proceed," he said.

At a press conference before leaving London, Rumsfeld said it was not yet known how many troops will be required in Iraq and for how long.

But he said other planning meetings will be held. Britain will hold a follow up.meeting to generate forces from other countries for its division May 7. Poland will hold another meeting May 22.

"And of course the larger number of countries that participate, the fewer number of forces from the United States will be necessary," Rumsfeld said.

The senior official said the stabilization force would supplement the US and British ground forces now in Iraq, which would be maintained at current levels as long as necessary.

About 132,000 US and 23,000 British troops are in Iraq.

All coalition forces in Iraq, including the stabilization force, would fall under the command of US General Tommy Franks, the official said. *AFP*

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein appears in this image from a video at an undisclosed location in Iraq. AP

Video shows weary, confused Saddam vowing Iraq victory

BAGHDAD—In what is purported to be his last known wartime speech—a video never before televised—Saddam Hussein appears exhausted, at times confused and seemingly resigned to defeat, but he tells Iraqis that God, somehow, will help them expel the American-British occupiers.

"The faithful will be victorious over the sinners, regardless of the duration of the struggle and the forms it might take," Saddam says. With patience, the "ordeal" can be overcome, he says, and the invaders driven from Iraq.

The videotape, bearing a presidential stamp, was obtained by Associated Press Television News from a former employee of the Iraqi satellite television channel which, under the regime, was responsible for filming and distributing official presidential video.

The employee said it was made on April 9, the day American troops streamed into central Baghdad and pulled down a towering Saddam statue.

There was no way to authenticate that the tape was made on that day. Nor could it be immediately proven that the speaker on the tape was Saddam—though Iraqis who watched and listened to the leader for decades believed it was him.

An audiotape of the address was obtained and aired April 18 by Abu Dhabi television, which said it also was told the speech was delivered April 9.

At the same time, Abu Dhabi television also broadcast a videotape, also said to have been made on April 9, showing Saddam in the midst of an enthusiastic crowd in the Baghdad district of Azamiyah, a few miles north of the area occupied by US troops that day.

At the time, two senior Bush administration officials cast doubt on the authenticity of the tapes.

Nearing his 66th birthday, in his familiar open-necked olive drab uniform and black beret, Saddam appears deeply fatigued, like someone who had slept little. The bags under his eyes droop more heavily than before. His speech is abnormally slow, and he seldom raises his eyes from the text to look into the camera.

Twice he repeats a sentence of the speech—not for emphasis, but out of apparent confusion. He seems on edge, not surprisingly for someone whose government has been under devastating air and ground attack for three weeks.

As he prepares to begin the speech, in a generic room with a backdrop of pink-and-orange drapes, he says to aides, "The sooner we finish it, the better."

Then, at the end, Saddam adds an uncharacteristically human note of uncertainty. "How was my reading as a whole?" he asks people off camera, and then adds, "It's OK." *AP*

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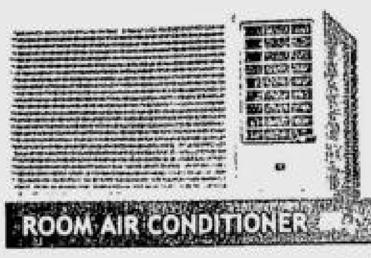

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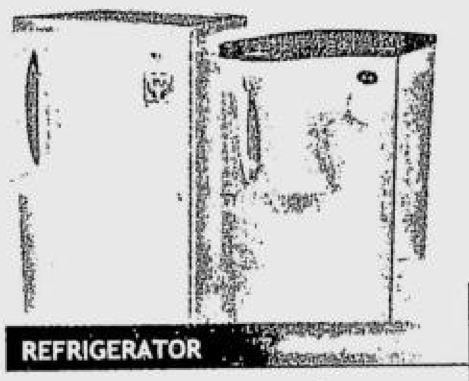

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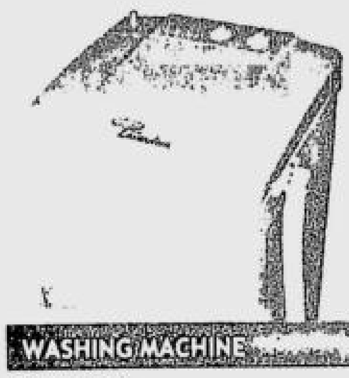

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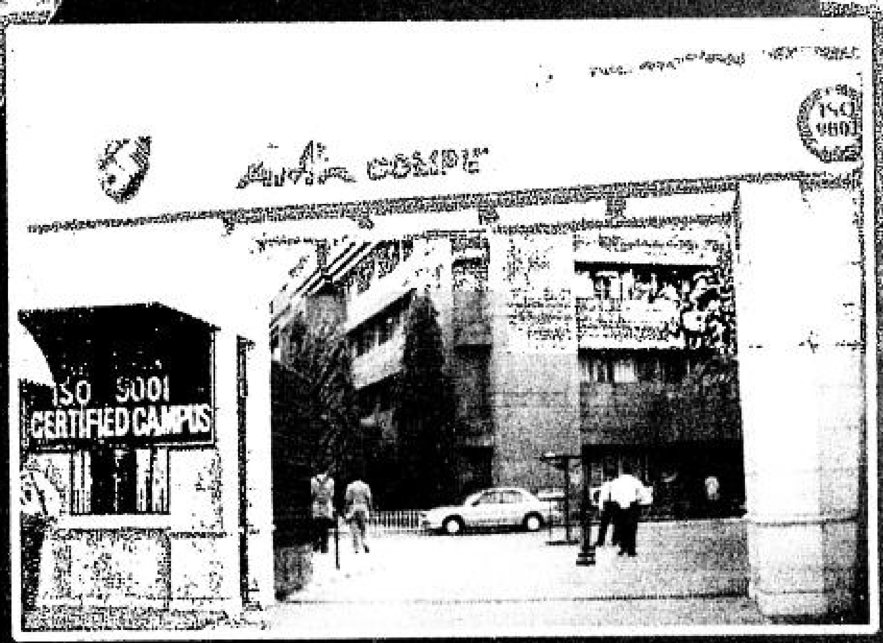

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Al-Qaida suicide plane plot bared

WASHINGTON—The United States has received intelligence reports that al-Qaida was in the late stages of planning an aerial suicide attack against the US Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, according to an advisory obtained on Friday by Reuters.

"Recent reliable reporting indicates that al-Qaida was in the late stages of planning an aerial suicide attack against the US Consulate in Karachi," the Department of Homeland Security said in advising pilots and airports to watch for suspicious activity.

"Operatives were planning to pack a small fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter with explosives and crash it into the consulate," the advisory, dated May 1, said.

It did not mention any specific threat inside the United States. "We issued this advisory in response to general intelligence regarding threats to airlines not to a specific threat," a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said.

The advisory was based on information and analysis from the Terrorist Threat Integration Center received during the last 24 hours, it said. The center, which aims to be a hub for terrorism threat information, officially opened on Thursday.

"This plot and a similar plot last year to fly a small explosive-laden aircraft into a US warship in the Persian Gulf demonstrate al-Qaida's continued fixation with using explosive-laden small aircraft in attacks," the advisory said.

A small plane loaded with explosives would be equivalent to a medium-sized truck bomb, the advisory said.

The United States blamed Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, in which hijacked commercial airliners were deliberately crashed into the World Trade Center and Pentagon, killing about 3,000 people.

The advisory warned that al-Qaida might attempt to use charter or small aircraft for future attacks because of their "availability, less stringent protective measures, and destructive potential."

"The group has a fair sized pilot cadre and the use of small aircraft requires far less skill and training than some larger aircraft," the advisory said.

Charter aircraft may be attractive to extremists because security procedures typically are not as rigorous as those for commercial airlines and "terrorists" would not have to control a large number of passengers, it said.

"Reliable information obtained last year indicated al Qaida might use experienced non-Arab pilots to rent three or four light aircraft under the guise of flying lessons," it said. *Reuters*

US to start military trials of detained terror suspects

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon is ready to proceed with military trials of detained terrorist suspects—possibly including those held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba—when President George W. Bush gives the green light, officials said Friday.

"Eight military commission instructions that the general counsel of the Department of the Defense has issued . . . were prepared as part of the process to be ready in case the President decides that it's appropriate to try any captured enemy combatants by military commission," said an official.

"The defendant in a military commission will always have a military defense counsel, a JAG (judge advocate general), who will have access to all classified information," he said.

"The civilian defense counsel may or may not have access to all classified information, depending on the level and sensitivity of the information."

Another official sought to draw a distinction between a military commission and a court martial.

"Courts martial have historically been used primarily for good order and discipline of our armed forces," he said. "Military commissions have been used for perhaps a wider variety of things.

"But in every case of a war crimes trial, violation of the laws of war, historically the United States has used military commissions... Military commissions are usually associated with times of armed conflict."

The instructions for the commissions were established a month after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, when Bush signed a decree on "the detention, treatment and trial of certain non-citizens in the war on terrorism."

The commissions could sit in the United States or abroad, theoretically including the US Marine base at Guantanamo where more than 650 alleged Taliban and al-Qaida members from Afghanistan have been held since January 2002.

The military commission order and the President's military order are drafted in such a way as to capitalize on the flexibility needed because of the increased need to protect intelligence information that occurs during an armed conflict," explained an official, "and a recognition that the kinds of evidence that one might find on a battlefield is very different than the normal situation our law enforcement officers have when they're getting evidence in peacetime.

"It's tough to get a warrant for a case," he said. "So in that respect, it allows the panel members more flexibility in determining what evidence has probative value and may be admitted." *AFP*

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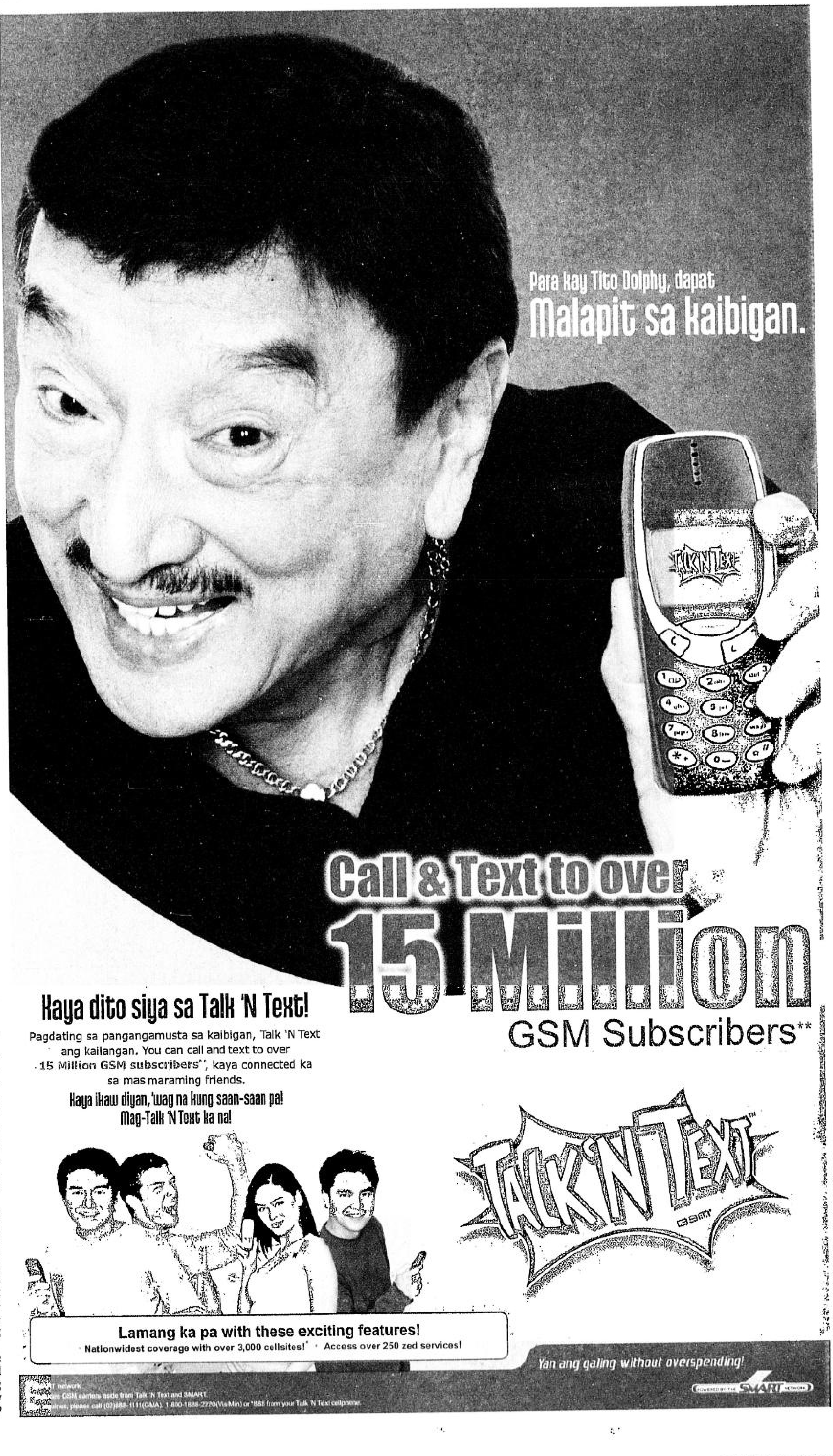
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Violence greets Mideast peace plan

JERUSALEM—The unveiling of a US-backed peace plan returned the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the world's attention this week, but violence immediately cast a pall on hopes for achieving a diplomatic breakthrough.

The optimism generated Tuesday by the Palestinian parliament's picking moderate Mahmud Abbas as its prime minister, a major requirement before the White House released the "roadmap" for peace, was deflated within hours by a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv that killed the attacker and three others.

The attack was a message to Abbas, a founder of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement who has slammed the violent course of the two-and-a-half year uprising against Israel as derailing Palestinian nationalist aspirations.

Despite the latest killings, the White House stayed true to its word and on Wednesday released the roadmap, drafted with the UN, European Union and Russia, that aims to establish a Palestinian state by the end of 2005.

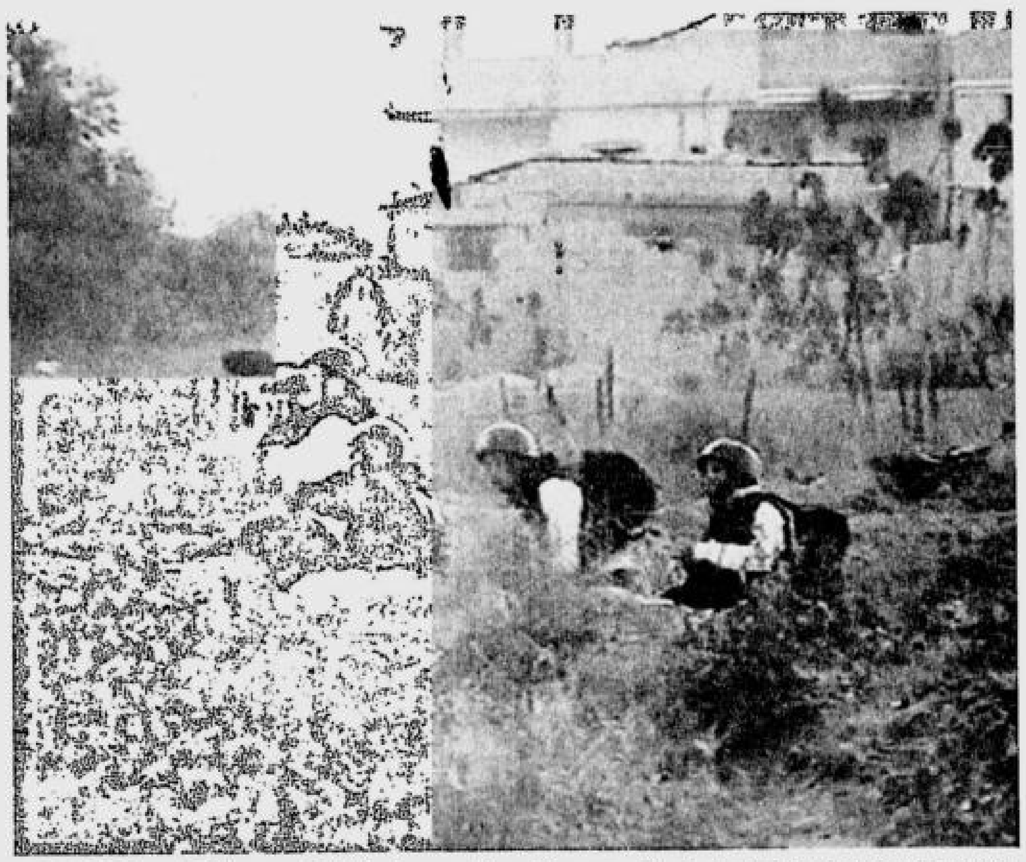
But bloodshed on the ground, this time from the Israeli side, clouded the White House announcement as a military raid into Gaza Thursday left 12 dead, including three members of the radical Islamic movement Hamas, a staunch opponent of the peace process.

The plan's hopes hinge on Abbas's ability to stop armed Palestinian groups and also on Israel's readiness to pull back forces in the occupied territories. But many doubt whether either side can truly deliver.

"There is not the slightest chance that it will bring us peace," said Dan Schueftan, a professor at the University of Haifa's National Security Studies Center.

Schueftan doubts a final agreement can be reached by 2005. Instead, he recommends the sides strive for an interim agreement, but only if Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, cracks down on groups like Hamas and its smaller counterpart Islamic Jihad.

"The question is if terrorism will stop without excuses, and the only way to stop them is to break them," he said, before adding: "I am not very optimistic... If it will succeed, I will be very surprised." Palestian experts warn that Hamas and Islamic Jihad's popularity make Abbas's task an uphill struggle. *AFP*



A FRAME from TV shows a British documentary film crew filming in Rafah, Gaza Strip, May 2. The Israeli army said a freelance British journalist, Briton James Miller, seen at left, holding camera filming youths earlier in the day, was shot and killed. Witnesses say the journalist was filming a documentary on the Israeli army's house demolitions later in the day when an Israeli tank opened fire. AP

Nigeria strikers to release hundreds of hostages

LAGOS, Nigeria—Striking Nigerian workers will release hundreds of hostages they've held for weeks aboard oil rigs off the west African nation's shore, negotiators said Friday.

The agreement securing the release of the more than 250 captives, including 35 Britons, 17 Americans and two Canadians, was struck during a Friday meeting between owners of the four oil rigs and the Nigerian hostage-takers' designated negotiators, said the secretary general of Nigeria's biggest oil workers union, Joseph Akinlaja, who aided in the negotiations.

"Any moment from now, all those on the rigs will leave," Akinlaja told The Associated Press by phone from the Nigerian capital, Abuja, where the negotiations were held.

Peter Akpatason, another Nigerian labor official, confirmed that an agreement had been reached. "The dispute has been resolved," he said.

Guy Cantwell, a spokesperson for the Houston-based owner of the rigs, Transocean Inc., also said that he understood the hostages would leave the offshore oil platforms, where they've been held since April 19 by about 100 disgruntled Nigerian workers.

"We understand the meeting has ended and an agreement has been reached. We understand a communique is being prepared to ensure everyone on the rig will leave," Cantwell said by telephone from Houston.

Details of when and how the hostages will leave were being arranged, Akinlaja said.

Talks on Wednesday stalled as Transocean and labor negotiators failed to agree on the fate of five Nigerian employees who were fired last month. The Nigerian workers originally began the strike to protest being taken to the rigs by boat, rather than helicopters.

Akinlaja said resolution of that issue and whether the strikers will be punished will be handled during subsequent meetings when tensions have eased. *AP*

Students accused of stealing music online agree to settlement

LOS ANGELES—Four students accused by the US recording industry of stealing music online have agreed to a settlement in their lawsuits with music moguls, lawyers said Friday.

The apparent victory for the record industry in its battle against Internet music piracy came just days after it lost a key case against makers of the software that allows users to swap music and film files over the Internet for free.

The Recording Industry Association of America agreed Thursday to settlements of between $12,000 and $17,500 from each student to be paid over four years.

The RIAA said the case was intended to discourage unauthorized music downloading on campuses across the United States, a practice that the industry says costs it more than $2.5 billion a month in lost sales.

The students—Daniel Peng, Jesse Jordan, Aaron Sherman and Joseph Nievelt—agreed to pay the cash over four years in return for the dropping of the multimillion-dollar suit filed in early April, but admitted no wrongdoing.

The four, from three different educational institutions including prestigious Princeton University in New Jersey, also agreed to remove the file-swapping websites they created, and to refrain from downloading or distributing bootlegged copies of songs.

"The record industry felt they need to defend themselves against what has become a large economic problem for them and they chose this litigation to get their point across," 18-year-old Peng's defense lawyer, Howard Ende, said. *AFP*

Pakistan hails restoration of Indian ties

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan, welcoming arch-rival India's restoration of diplomatic and air links, said Friday it would match the pledge and hinted that the first talks could happen soon.

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid hailed Vajpayee's move as "a gesture of hope."

"I cannot say right now when talks are going to start, but it should be soon as things are moving quite fast. You can expect them any moment," Rashid said.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told the lower house of parliament earlier Friday that New Delhi would restore civil aviation and diplomatic links with Pakistan, severed 17 months ago.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri said Islamabad would "of course" reciprocate by appointing an ambassador to New Delhi.

"In due course we will," he told AFP in an interview, adding that the formal announcement would come from Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali.

"Pakistan and India should start talking to each other rather than at each other, with India blaming us and we continuing to say there are gross human rights violations in Kashmir."

But he declined to say when bilateral talks may begin.

"I hope they will. The sooner the better, so they can address the real issue of poverty," Kasuri said.

The last formal talks between the South Asian foes came in July 2001 at a summit in India's Taj Mahal city of Agra.

"We have always called for maintaining ties at the level of (ambassadors) and have been supportive of people-to-people contacts and resumption of various links and exchanges," Kasuri said in a formal statement issued Friday.

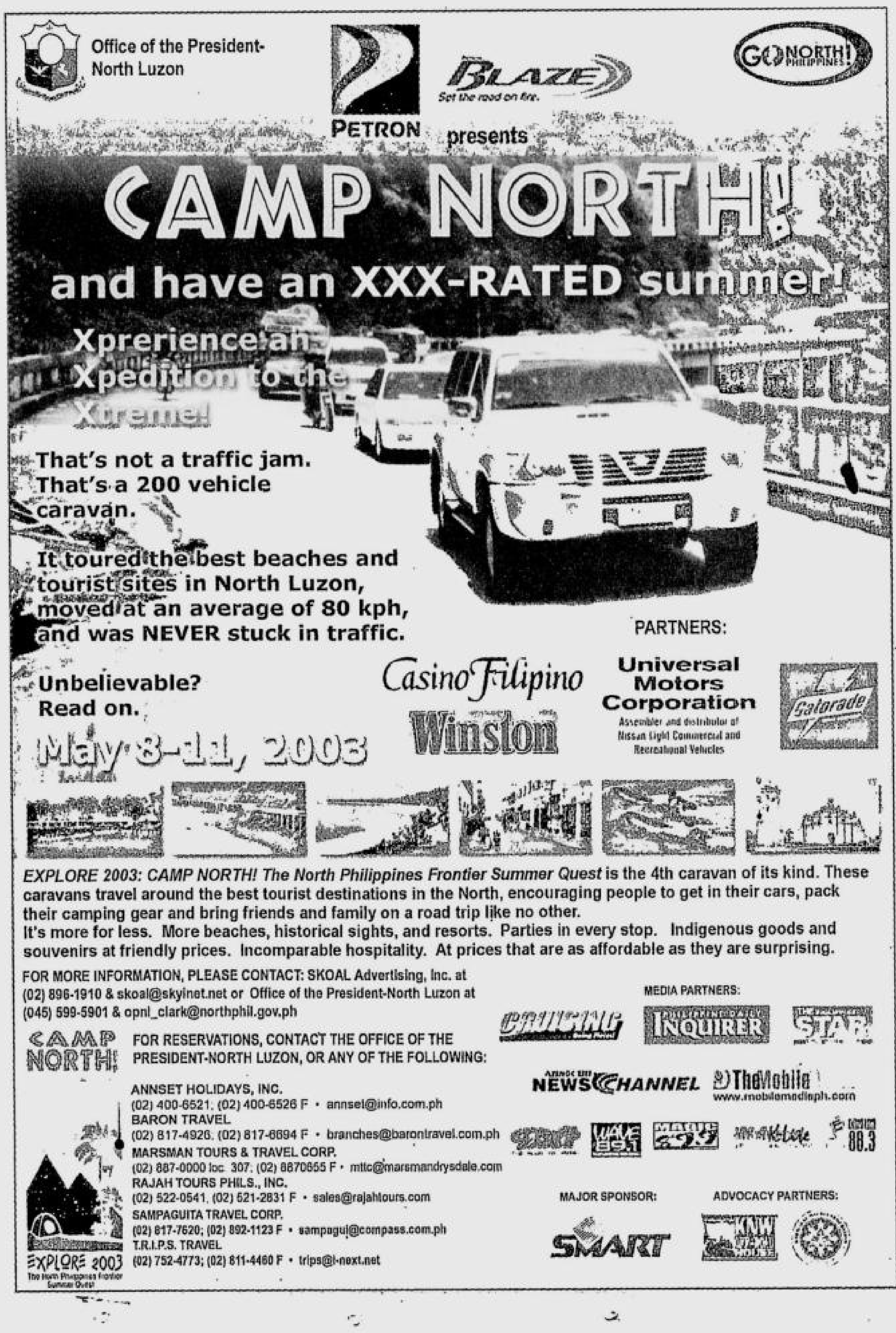
"We are pleased that measures previously taken by India unilaterally which had affected our relations, are being withdrawn by the government of India."

New Delhi withdrew its envoy to Islamabad after blaming Pakistan for a fatal attack on its parliament in December 2001 in which 14 people were killed, including five gunmen. Another died later of his injuries.

Pakistan has consistently denied any link to the attack.

Vajpayee's announcement follows an April 18 offer of a "hand of friendship" to Pakistan during a tour of Kashmir and falls four days after Jamali telephoned Vajpayee to invite him to Pakistan for talks. The Pakistani prime minister also offered to travel to India himself.

Both overtures come ahead of a visit to South Asia next week by US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. *AFP*



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14 more bodies of kids pulled out from rubble

CELTIKSUYU, Turkey—Rescue workers pulled out the bodies of 14 more children overnight from the rubble of a dormitory leveled by an earthquake, a Turkish military officer said Saturday, dimming hopes of finding any more survivors.

Rescue workers have been using huge cranes and bulldozers to lift concrete slabs since Friday afternoon after sniffer dogs and electronic listening equipment failed to detect any signs of life from under the collapsed four-story building.

A total of 63 children have been found dead at the school in the eastern Turkish town of Celtiksuyu, while 114 were pulled out alive, said an officer coordinating rescue efforts. He put the number of children still trapped at 20 following Thursday's pre-dawn quake that struck the largely Kurdish area.

The total death toll from the 6.4 magnitude quake rose to 147. More than 1,000 people were injured.

Earlier, authorities had announced that 117 children were rescued from the collapsed dormitory building but an official explained the discrepancy Saturday, saying three children had been mistakenly counted twice.

As hopes diminished to find more students alive, some relatives said they feared their children's bodies could be mangled by the work of heavy equipment.

"I just hope they don't cut him into pieces," Mehmet Siddik said of his 14-year-old son, Mehmet, who was among those trapped.

When the earthquake struck, the cheaply made and apparently never-inspected student dormitory crumbled, crushing scores of children as they slept.

The columns, lacking sufficient cement and metal rods, could not resist the weight of the building. Only steel cabinets were still standing—basically serving as columns holding up the weight of the collapsed ceiling at one floor.

"Murderers," shouted Gazal Gunalan, mother of 15-year-old Mehmet, believed to be trapped under the debris. She was one of dozens of mothers wailing in front of the collapsed building.

"Look at this building, it is the poor construction that took the lives of our children," she said.

Kemal Turkaslan, head of the Ankara-branch of the construction engineers association said the construction code requires that no stone bigger than a pebble be used—but grapefruit-sized stones could be seen scattered around the site.

A TURKISH man waits for his son's body to be recovered from the wreckage of a four-story dormitory in Celtiksuyu village, near the eastern Turkish city of Bingol May 3. REUTERS

"I see big stones brought in from a river bed on the cracked walls," he said. "That is unacceptable."

Public Works and Housing Minister Zeki Ergezen said an investigation had been launched into the contractor of the collapsed school. Newspapers reported that the school's contractor, Seref Bozkus, was banned from bidding for public tenders last year for one year because of financial irregularities.

On Friday, violent clashes erupted in the predominantly Kurdish city of Bingol between police and angry crowds protesting a shortage of tents, food and water. Police fired shots in the air as the protesters demanded the resignation of the regional governor and threw stones at official buildings. Several demonstrators were injured by a police van speeding through the crowd. At least five policemen and three journalists were injured.

Soldiers wearing helmets and carrying riot shields were still guarding the governor's office on Saturday. Armored cars patrolled the partly deserted town throughout the night but there has been no reported incident.

Relatives of those trapped inside complained Saturday that the government had not provided food although they have been camped outside the school building for two days. Some people were sipping lentil soup, provided by their relatives, from cut off plastic water bottles.

Although the country has suffered several massive quakes over the past decade, experts say little has been done to address the problem of poor construction, which was blamed for many of the deaths in the 1999 quakes in western Turkey that killed more than 18,000 people. *AP*

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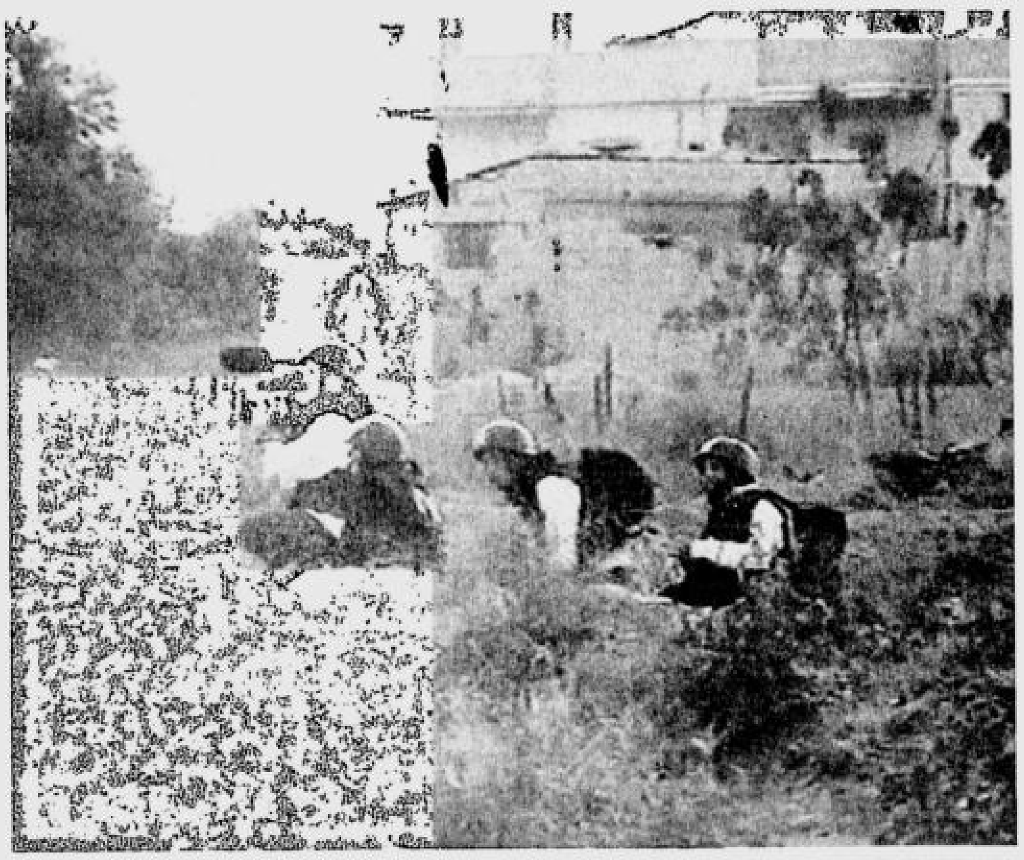
"There is not the slightest chance that it will bring us peace," said Dan Schueftan, a professor at the University of Haifa's National Security Studies Center.

Schueftan doubts a final agreement can be reached by 2005. Instead, he recommends the sides strive for an interim agreement, but only if Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, cracks down on groups like Hamas and its smaller counterpart Islamic Jihad.

"The question is if terrorism will stop without excuses, and the only way to stop them is to break them," he said, before adding: "I am not very optimistic... If it will succeed, I will be very surprised." Palestian experts warn that Hamas and Islamic Jihad's popularity make Abbas's task an uphill struggle. *AFP*



A FRAME from TV shows a British documentary film crew filming in Rafah, Gaza Strip, May 2. The Israeli army said a freelance British journalist, Briton James Miller, seen at left, holding camera filming youths earlier in the day, was shot and killed. Witnesses say the journalist was filming a documentary on the Israeli army's house demolitions later in the day when an Israeli tank opened fire. AP

Pakistan hails restoration of Indian ties

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan, welcoming arch-rival India's restoration of diplomatic and air links, said Friday it would match the pledge and hinted that the first talks could happen soon.

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid hailed Vajpayee's move as "a gesture of hope."

"I cannot say right now when talks are going to start, but it should be soon as things are moving quite fast. You can expect them any moment," Rashid said.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told the lower house of parliament earlier Friday that New Delhi would restore civil aviation and diplomatic links with Pakistan, severed 17 months ago.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri said Islamabad would "of course" reciprocate by appointing an ambassador to New Delhi.

"In due course we will," he told AFP in an interview, adding that the formal announcement would come from Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali.

"Pakistan and India should start talking to each other rather than at each other, with India blaming us and we continuing to say there are gross human rights violations in Kashmir."

But he declined to say when bilateral talks may begin.

"I hope they will. The sooner the better, so they can address the real issue of poverty," Kasuri said.

The last formal talks between the South Asian foes came in July 2001 at a summit in India's Taj Mahal city of Agra.

"We have always called for maintaining ties at the level of (ambassadors) and have been supportive of people-to-people contacts and resumption of various links and exchanges," Kasuri said in a formal statement issued Friday.

"We are pleased that measures previously taken by India unilaterally which had affected our relations, are being withdrawn by the government of India."

New Delhi withdrew its envoy to Islamabad after blaming Pakistan for a fatal attack on its parliament in December 2001 in which 14 people were killed, including five gunmen. Another died later of his injuries.

Pakistan has consistently denied any link to the attack.

Vajpayee's announcement follows an April 18 offer of a "hand of friendship" to Pakistan during a tour of Kashmir and falls four days after Jamali telephoned Vajpayee to invite him to Pakistan for talks. The Pakistani prime minister also offered to travel to India himself.

Both overtures come ahead of a visit to South Asia next week by US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. *AFP*

Nigeria strikers to release hundreds of hostages

LAGOS, Nigeria—Striking Nigerian workers will release hundreds of hostages they've held for weeks aboard oil rigs off the west African nation's shore, negotiators said Friday.

The agreement securing the release of the more than 250 captives, including 35 Britons, 17 Americans and two Canadians, was struck during a Friday meeting between owners of the four oil rigs and the Nigerian hostage-takers' designated negotiators, said the secretary general of Nigeria's biggest oil workers union, Joseph Akinlaja, who aided in the negotiations.

"Any moment from now, all those on the rigs will leave," Akinlaja told The Associated Press by phone from the Nigerian capital, Abuja, where the negotiations were held.

Peter Akpatason, another Nigerian labor official, confirmed that an agreement had been reached. "The dispute has been resolved," he said.

Guy Cantwell, a spokesperson for the Houston-based owner of the rigs, Transocean Inc., also said that he understood the hostages would leave the offshore oil platforms, where they've been held since April 19 by about 100 disgruntled Nigerian workers.

"We understand the meeting has ended and an agreement has been reached. We understand a communique is being prepared to ensure everyone on the rig will leave," Cantwell said by telephone from Houston.

Details of when and how the hostages will leave were being arranged, Akinlaja said.

Talks on Wednesday stalled as Transocean and labor negotiators failed to agree on the fate of five Nigerian employees who were fired last month. The Nigerian workers originally began the strike to protest being taken to the rigs by boat, rather than helicopters.

Akinlaja said resolution of that issue and whether the strikers will be punished will be handled during subsequent meetings when tensions have eased. *AP*

Students accused of stealing music online agree to settlement

LOS ANGELES—Four students accused by the US recording industry of stealing music online have agreed to a settlement in their lawsuits with music moguls, lawyers said Friday.

The apparent victory for the record industry in its battle against Internet music piracy came just days after it lost a key case against makers of the software that allows users to swap music and film files over the Internet for free.

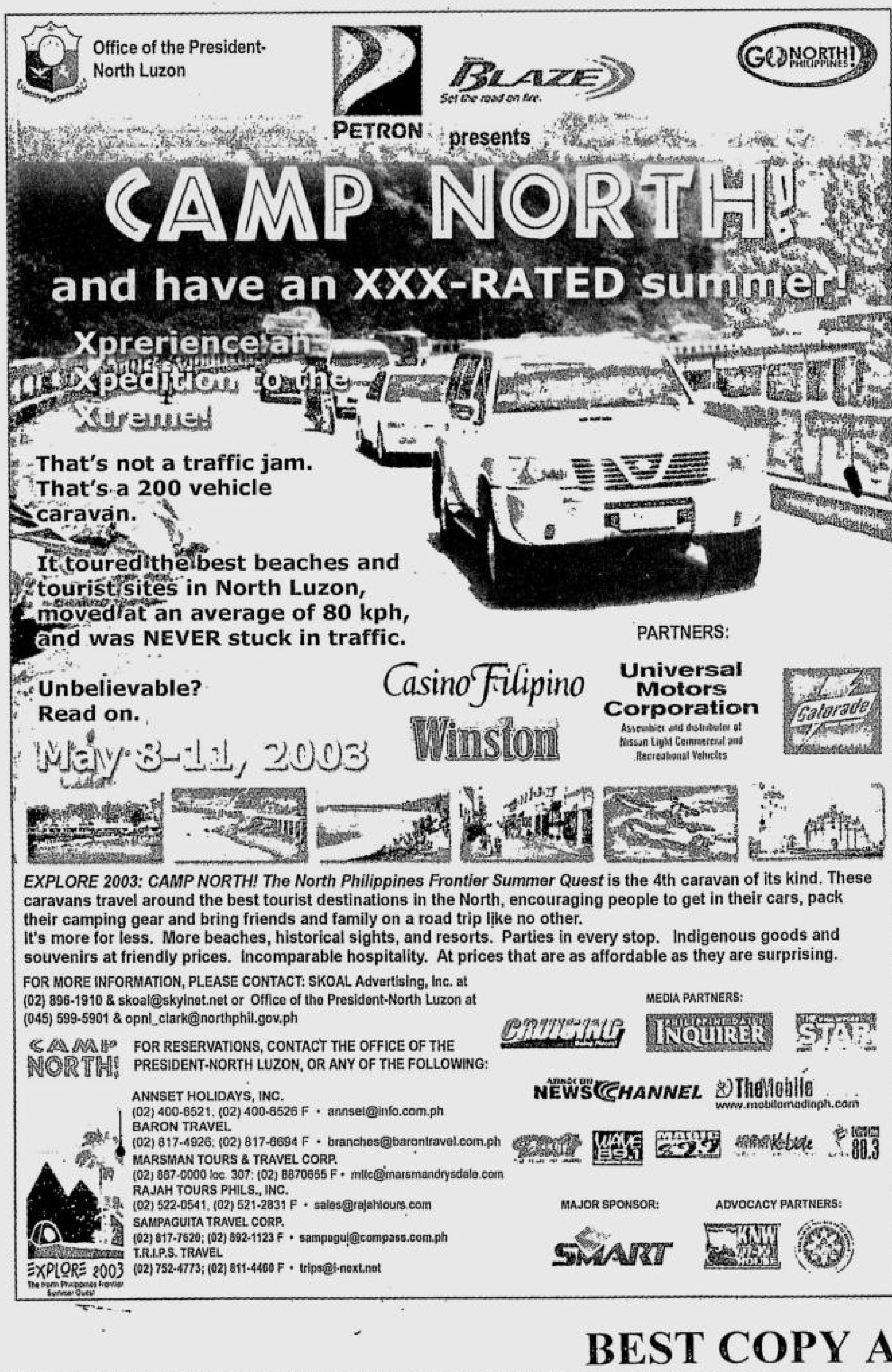
The Recording Industry Association of America agreed Thursday to settlements of between $12,000 and $17,500 from each student to be paid over four years.

The RIAA said the case was intended to discourage unauthorized music downloading on campuses across the United States, a practice that the industry says costs it more than $2.5 billion a month in lost sales.

The students—Daniel Peng, Jesse Jordan, Aaron Sherman and Joseph Nievelt—agreed to pay the cash over four years in return for the dropping of the multimillion-dollar suit filed in early April, but admitted no wrongdoing.

The four, from three different educational institutions including prestigious Princeton University in New Jersey, also agreed to remove the file-swapping websites they created, and to refrain from downloading or distributing bootlegged copies of songs.

"The record industry felt they need to defend themselves against what has become a large economic problem for them and they chose this litigation to get their point across," 18-year-old Peng's defense lawyer, Howard Ende, said. *AFP*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14 more bodies of kids pulled out from rubble

CELTIKSUYU, Turkey—Rescue workers pulled out the bodies of 14 more children overnight from the rubble of a dormitory leveled by an earthquake, a Turkish military officer said Saturday, dimming hopes of finding any more survivors.

Rescue workers have been using huge cranes and bulldozers to lift concrete slabs since Friday afternoon after sniffer dogs and electronic listening equipment failed to detect any signs of life from under the collapsed four-story building.

A total of 63 children have been found dead at the school in the eastern Turkish town of Celtiksuyu, while 114 were pulled out alive, said an officer coordinating rescue efforts. He put the number of children still trapped at 20 following Thursday's pre-dawn quake that struck the largely Kurdish area.

The total death toll from the 6.4 magnitude quake rose to 147. More than 1,000 people were injured.

Earlier, authorities had announced that 117 children were rescued from the collapsed dormitory building but an official explained the discrepancy Saturday, saying three children had been mistakenly counted twice.

As hopes diminished to find more students alive, some relatives said they feared their children's bodies could be mangled by the work of heavy equipment.

"I just hope they don't cut him into pieces," Mehmet Siddik said of his 14-year-old son, Mehmet, who was among those trapped.

When the earthquake struck, the cheaply made and apparently never-inspected student dormitory crumbled, crushing scores of children as they slept.

The columns, lacking sufficient cement and metal rods, could not resist the weight of the building. Only steel cabinets were still standing—basically serving as columns holding up the weight of the collapsed ceiling at one floor.

"Murderers," shouted Gazal Gunalan, mother of 15-year-old Mehmet, believed to be trapped under the debris. She was one of dozens of mothers wailing in front of the collapsed building.

"Look at this building, it is the poor construction that took the lives of our children," she said.

Kemal Turkaslan, head of the Ankara branch of the construction engineers association said the construction code requires that no stone bigger than a pebble be used—but grapefruit-sized stones could be seen scattered around the site.

A TURKISH man waits for his son's body to be recovered from the wreckage of a four-story dormitory in Celtiksuyu village, near the eastern Turkish city of Bingol May 3. REUTERS

"I see big stones brought in from a river bed on the cracked walls," he said. "That is unacceptable."

Public Works and Housing Minister Zeki Ergezen said an investigation had been launched into the contractor of the collapsed school. Newspapers reported that the school's contractor, Seref Bozkus, was banned from bidding for public tenders last year for one year because of financial irregularities.

On Friday, violent clashes erupted in the predominantly Kurdish city of Bingol between police and angry crowds protesting a shortage of tents, food and water. Police fired shots in the air as the protesters demanded the resignation of the regional governor and threw stones at official buildings. Several demonstrators were injured by a police van speeding through the crowd. At least five policemen and three journalists were injured.

Soldiers wearing helmets and carrying riot shields were still guarding the governor's office on Saturday. Armored cars patrolled the partly deserted town throughout the night but there has been no reported incident.

Relatives of those trapped inside complained Saturday that the government had not provided food although they have been camped outside the school building for two days. Some people were sipping lentil soup, provided by their relatives, from cut off plastic water bottles.

Although the country has suffered several massive quakes over the past decade, experts say little has been done to address the problem of poor construction, which was blamed for many of the deaths in the 1999 quakes in western Turkey that killed more than 18,000 people. *AP*

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DEADLIEST IN NAVY'S HISTORY

Reason for China submarine disaster a mystery

BEIJING—China has been unusually open in reporting an accident on a submarine that killed all of its 70 men but the cause of the disaster has not been disclosed and analysts said it might have been the result of a gas leak.

The accident, in Chinese territorial waters off its northeastern coast, was the result of mechanical problems during training, said Saturday's newspapers, which splashed reports of the disaster across their front pages.

The newspapers ran the same brief report issued by the official Xinhua news agency late on Friday, which provided no detail of how the accident happened but said the submarine had been towed back to an unidentified port.

The mishap was one of the deadliest for China's navy since the Communists took power in 1949 and it put a spotlight on the shortcomings of the country's outmoded and ill-equipped submarine force, which the government is trying to upgrade.

Military analysts said the submarine, No. 361, was an indigenous Ming-class vessel, which usually has a contingent of nine officers and 46 men. The death toll of 70 raised a question, one military analyst said.

"That's a lot of dead people for one submarine," said Wendell Minnick, a Taipei-based military expert.

"It's very strange, particularly that 70 died," he said.

"Where did the extra 15 come from?"

Xinhua made no mention of any salvage work, indicating the submarine had not sunk, and, presumably, the 70 men had not drowned.

"I don't believe it was under water," Minnick said. "A fire or a collision is a possibility. If it was a torpedo that blew up, it would have probably sunk it."

Military analysts speculated the crew may have been killed by a poisonous gas leak, perhaps carbon monoxide from its diesel engines. "It could have been toxic gas," a Beijing-based Western diplomat said.

China has 13 Ming-class diesel submarines, which can go without resupply for 60 days, according to Jane's Defense Weekly.

Analysts were surprised state media reported the accident because the Chinese military has traditionally operated behind a cloak of secrecy laws.

In the 1980s, a destroyer exploded near the southern island of Hainan killing nearly 100 people in the worst naval accident in China's Communist history, a Chinese military source said.

But China's new Communist Party chief, Hu Jintao, has been gingerly prodding the media to report disasters more openly.

Hu, who took office in March, last month let the media freely and fully report the outbreak of the flu-like virus Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome which has killed 181 people in China.

China was stung by global criticism that it had covered up the extent of SARS, and releasing news of the submarine accident might be a consequence of that, analysts said.

"This is a major event. Jiang Zemin's approval is needed to announce it," said a Chinese military source who declined to be identified.

"By announcing the accident, Jiang is trying to absolve himself, wash his hands," the source said.

"Whoever should be held responsible will be held responsible," he said. "This is an important step toward political transparency."

The People's Daily, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party, said Jiang Zemin, China's former president who is still chair of the Central Military Commission, sent condolences to the families of the dead men.

China has a fleet of about 90 submarines, including both Russian and indigenous types, dating back decades. It tried to save money on training and has experienced problems and many of the vessels are now not seaworthy, military analysts said.

The government is pouring billions of dollars into upgrading the 2.5 million-strong People's Liberation Army into a professional, high-technology force.

Jane's Defense Weekly reported last year the Chinese navy had ordered eight Kilo-class submarines from Russia costing an estimated $1.6 billion to be delivered within five years. *Reuters*

Cypriots flex people power in Green Line crossings

NICOSIA—Cyprus savored unprecedented people power last week as tens of thousands crossed the island's barbed-wired division in a rush to see former homes for the first time since a decades-old travel ban was lifted.

Almost a quarter of the island's 900,000 population have made the landmark trip across a UN-manned Green Line since Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash lifted restrictions on April 23, sparking a major event in Cyprus' history.

Long queues of people and cars strained to get through the central Ledra Palace checkpoint in Nicosia, with an average of 30,000 crossing each day in both directions on the eastern Mediterranean island.

Most of the traffic comprised of Greek Cypriots from the south crossing to the Turkish-held north, from where 200,000 were made refugees when Turkish troops invaded in 1974 in response to an Athens-engineered coup on the island.

Greek Cypriots had mixed feelings upon returning home for the first time, many felt once is enough, others were determined to keep crossing until the Cyprus problem is solved.

The internationally recognized Greek Cypriot government has taken southern Cyprus to the final stage of admission to the European Union, while the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is still recognized only by Ankara.

For Greek Cypriots, however, the anxious wait to return to their homes has been both a blessing and a curse.

'Once is enough'

"I wouldn't go again, once is enough. I went back to see my house and it had been turned into a stable for goats," said Haralmbos Sergiou, 80, originally from Eptagomi on the wild northern Karpass peninsula.

He was taken prisoner by Turkish soldiers in 1974 and still bears a facial scar where he was slammed with a rifle butt.

Sergiou searched for Turkish Cypriot friends but could not find them.

"I asked if anybody knew them but nobody could remember, most people in the village were Turkish settlers not Cypriots," he said.

Others have been reduced to tears after returning to Orthodox Christian churches only to find them stripped of their former splendor or turned into mosques.

But for some, the experience has been life-affirming, offering hope for the troubled island's future.

"I went back to my home and it was in better shape than when we left it, we were warmly greeted by the Turkish Cypriots and there were many tears," said Nitsa Damianou, 55, a refugee from the eastern village of Ayios Sergios.

"We have been invited back and they will cook for my entire family," she added.

Politicians

Politicians on both sides have been overwhelmed by the will of people to see homes, churches, neighborhoods and friends they had fled as tanks rolled in.

Greek Cypriot authorities have tried to wrest the initiative from Denktash by approving a series of measures allowing Turkish Cypriots to trade and work in the south.

But the government firmly opposes southern Cypriots taking up Denktash's offer of overnight stays in northern hotels, comparing it to "receiving stolen goods" since some originally belonged to Greek Cypriots.

The feeble Turkish Cypriot economy has nonetheless gotten a huge boost from Greek Cypriot visitors who spent an estimated $2.5 million (2.2 million euros) in a week of newfound freedom.

And hotels in the popular northern port of Kyrenia were said to be fully booked this weekend by Greek Cypriots despite the official warning.

When Denktash abruptly eased restrictions for the first time in 29 years, nobody could predict what the reaction would be.

But Greek and Turkish Cypriots greeted each other warmly after decades of isolation, total strangers embraced like long lost friends in a spontaneous and genuine attempt to bridge years of mistrust. *AFP*

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New road gives hope, new life to Negros town

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

VALENCIA, Negros Oriental—Days before government officials came on a Friday to Barangay Cambucad in this town to cut the ribbon inaugurating the five-kilometer road linking the villages of Pulangbato in Valencia and San Antonio in Sibulan, Jordan Sarita saw the answer to his dreams as the first four-wheeled vehicles passed by his village with ease.

This new road, passing through his remote corner of the world opened a new dimension in his and his family's simple farming life.

From his home, Sarita, in his 50s, would no longer have to walk for at least three kilometers or ride on carabao-drawn carts to the main road just to catch a ride to town or to Dumaguete City.

Sharing his dream was then vice governor George Arnaiz. Now governor of Negros Oriental, Arnaiz recounted how, on many occasions, people had to make their own way into these mountains whenever he visited the interior barangays between Valencia and Sibulan towns due west of Dumaguete City.

"You will not appreciate this road if you are seeing it for the first time today because you do not know how difficult it was for the people here to travel five years ago," Arnaiz said.

Right of way

Plans for building the road had one major obstacle: the right of way. There were 54 landowners to talk to. Next came the problem of funding.

So when the Philippine National Oil Company Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) pledged P5 million to construct the all-weather road, Mayors Antonio Renacia of Sibulan and Rodolfo Gonzales Jr. of Valencia towns lost no time negotiating with the landowners for the right of way. Their efforts paid off as the landowners were much willing to share their land for the much-needed road.

"Most of our lands were utilized for the road," said Evilla Sarita, but she didn't seem to mind. She was even smiling when she received her certificate of appreciation among the landowners who were honored during a program on April 29, a Friday.

Commitment

On hand to personally thank the landowners was PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol, who said their road project is a symbol of their company's commitment and support to the province of Negros Oriental, which hosts two geothermal facilities in Palinpinon, Valencia town.

A vast forested area of the towns of Valencia, Sibulan, Bacong and Dauin fall under the 33,000-hectare PNOC reservation area and the new road will also enable PNOC-EDC employees to better guard the forests.

DAVAO ORIENTAL KILLINGS

Gov't soldiers face murder charges

DAVAO CITY—The relatives of a man and his son who were reportedly killed after they were fired at by government soldiers in Baganga, Davao Oriental on April 25, filed a formal complaint against the military before the Commission on Human Rights regional office here on Thursday.

Romana Masimid, 60, who survived the shooting allegedly by government troopers issued an affidavit accusing members of the Army's 8th Special Forces of murder for the death of her son William and her three-year-old grandchild Wilmer.

Masimid said in her affidavit that soldiers were responsible for the shooting of their house in Sitio Bisaya in Barangay Mahan-ub.

She said during the shooting, another resident identified as Elmo Dayaon was also wounded.

The military earlier claimed that the Masimids and Dayaon were caught in the crossfire when soldiers clashed with New People's Army rebels who were seen in the area.

But human rights group Karapatan-Southern Mindanao said based on its investigation, no encounter occurred during that date in the village and that not a single member of the NPA was around the vicinity when the shooting took place.

Ariel Casilao, secretary general of Karapatan, said that Dayaon, 45; William Masimid, 25, Wilmer and Romana were resting inside Victorio Masimid's house after lunch when more than 100 fully armed members of the 30th Special Forces Company approached their place and shouted *"Baba!"* (come down).

Casilao said that upon seeing Dayaon at the door, they immediately fired at the house killing Wilmer, who was then playing, and his father.

Dayaon was hit in the legs and fell on the ground while a splinter hit Romana in the forehead.

Quoting the contents of the Karapatan Quick Reaction Team report, Casilao said Romana even tried to ask the military why they killed his son and grandchild. She was instead hauled off to the headquarters of the 8th Special Forces.

The military claimed that William was an NPA rebel.

But Dulcisima, William's wife, belied the claim.

"We are only farmers. My husband was resting during that day after hauling abaca when he was killed," Dulcisima said.

Karapatan said the killings were only among the many atrocities committed by the military against civilians in the area.

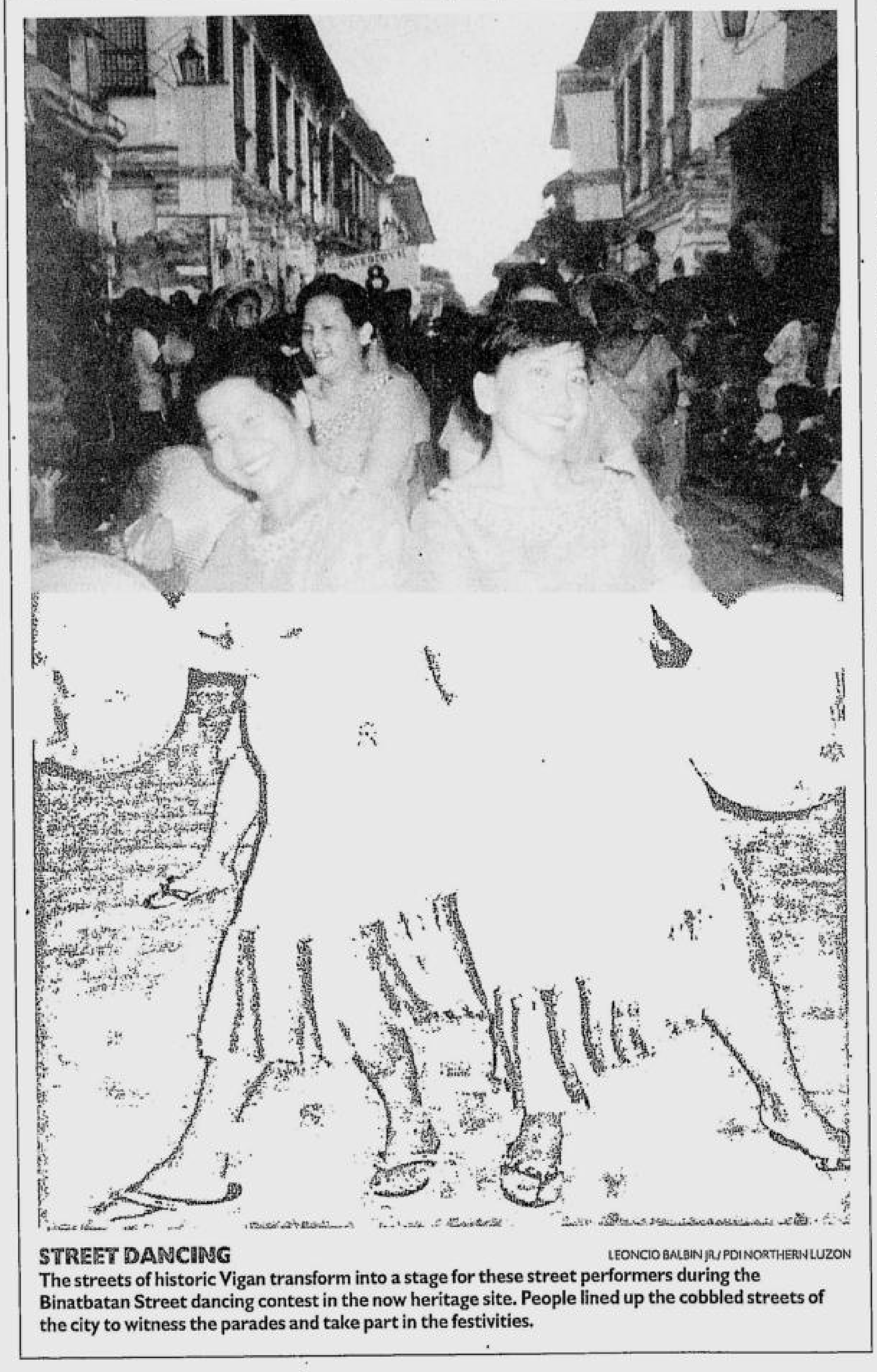
In Butuan City, despite having been accused of massive human rights violations, the military said it was deploying more soldiers following the series of offensives staged by communist guerillas all over the Caraga region.

"This is part of the directives from higher-ups to counter the communist-terrorist threat in Caraga," Col. Juanito Cabayao, commander of the Army's 402nd Infantry Brigade based in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, said.

Cabayao said the growing presence of communist guerrillas in remote areas of the twin provinces of Agusan, Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte has been alarming.

Last month, George Madlos, communist spokesperson for Mindanao, said they were inclined to launch more attacks against the government.

The rebels stepped up their offensives following the collapse of peace talks between the government and the communist leadership based in The Netherlands and after the government declared the NPA a terrorist group. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



STREET DANCING

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./ PDI NORTHERN LUZON

The streets of historic Vigan transform into a stage for these street performers during the Binatbatan Street dancing contest in the now heritage site. People lined up the cobbled streets of the city to witness the parades and take part in the festivities.

Vietnamese execs get lessons from Dumaguete on coastal management

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Vietnamese coastal resource managers are learning new strategies in managing protected areas from the Philippines.

Among the things they will set up upon reaching Vietnam next week are seaborne patrols, which they learned after interacting with the Bantay Dagat volunteers on Apo Island, considered an international model in community-based coastal resources management.

The group from Ninh Thuan province in Vietnam is in Dumaguete for a one-week intensive training to increase management capacity in marine protected areas throughout the Asean region. The workshop is sponsored by the UN Environment Program and hosted by the Silliman University Marine Laboratory.

"We had always thought that the management of the resources of the sea was difficult but are now convinced that it is practical because it is doable," said Vo Thanh Long, chief of the Nhon Hai commune in Vietnam.

Vo and eight other coastal resource advocates visited the barangay of Apo off the coast of Dauin to see for themselves what has always been set as a world model of successful coastal resource management.

"It has been quite interesting and we are very impressed especially with the role the women here have played in making the project a success," said Tran Phong, head of the delegation and director of the Department of Science, Technology and Environment of Ninh Thuan province. He said he was impressed that the Apo villagers who said they work voluntarily not for themselves, but for the next generation.

Dr. Laurie Raymundo, Philippine head of the United Nations Environment Protection agency's Apo Island-Ninh Thuan Cooperative Project, stressed to the Vietnamese coastal resource managers the need to be trained on environmental laws.

The Vietnamese village chief said he was confident that funds to operate sea-watch patrols in Vietnam would be "easy to procure."

Apo barangay captain Mario Pascobello recalled to the group how, for the past years, sea wardens would just volunteer their time and never get paid because there were no funds.

In recent years, however, the Bantay Dagat fishermen on Apo Island have been receiving "minimal honoraria," taken from part of the income earned from ecotourism activities managed by the Protected Area Management Board.

In 2001, Apo Island earned P1.2 million, comprising 75 percent of the income derived from ecotourism. Part of the money was spent for maintenance costs of the sanctuary, and other projects like an electric generator and a rain collector for drinking water.

The coastal managers and representatives of women's associations from Vietnam were also set to visit other local government units that are doing coastal resource management work.

Some of the Vietnamese, who were on training on the role of mass communication in building public awareness on environment issues were expected to visit local radio and television stations and were also scheduled to meet with environmental students from Silliman, and local environmental journalists led by members of the Environmental Communicators of Negros & Siquijor.

OFW from Bacolod jailed, tortured in Kuwait finally comes home

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—He was still gripped with fear that the Kuwaitis would send him back to jail even as he was already boarding the plane that would take him back to the Philippines.

Bacolod native Teddy Tomaro felt finally free when the plane touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on April 23. Now, the Kuwait authorities can no longer touch him.

"I felt like kissing the ground because I knew I was finally on Philippine soil and the Kuwaitis could not get to me anymore," he said.

Teddy, 41, was tortured and jailed in Kuwait for one year and two months after he was wrongly accused of killing a Canadian on Oct. 10, 2001.

He was acquitted of murder charges in October last year. But he could not return home immediately because the Kuwaiti government had filed an appeal.

Early this year, the Kuwaiti court dismissed the appeal, paving the way for Teddy's return to the Philippines.

Teddy arrived at the Naia on April 23. He was met by his wife Raema, 39 and a public school teacher who had never stopped knocking on the doors of government officials, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, to ask for help for her husband's freedom.

The couple arrived in their home in Barangay Tangub, in Bacolod City on April 26.

Shrieks of joy broke out in the Tomaro household as three children—Rhoda May, 15, and twins: Shenny Pearl and Sheryl Joy, 14—could not contain their happiness upon seeing their father for the first time in almost two years.

Traumatic

Teddy, however, has not recovered from the trauma of his ordeal in Kuwaiti. Loud sounds jolt him, perhaps remembering the days when he was tortured.

Teddy, a mechanical plumber at the Al Fintas Tower in Kuwait City, was arrested on Oct. 27, 2001 for the murder of Canadian Luc Ethier.

Ethier, who was employed by a US defense contracting company Dyncorp, was shot dead on Oct. 10, 2001 while walking with his wife Mary Ann Bitos through a busy shopping area in Fahaheel, south of Kuwait City.

Teddy, along with Filipinos Jimmy Binuya and Bitos were accused of premeditated murder.

Norasa Talib Esick was accused of supplying the murder weapon, which was never found by authorities. Rosalia Tesoro Backlig was accused of informing Ethier's killers of his whereabouts on the night he was shot.

Wrongly accused

Teddy said the Kuwaiti authorities assumed that he was an accomplice because prior to Ethier's murder, Bitos had made several calls to a mobile number registered to his name.

But he said the number was actually being used by Backlig whom he had helped buy a SIM card using his Civil ID. Backlig was Bitos' co-worker at a restaurant in a Kuwait mall.

Teddy said he was tortured for 15 days. Kuwaiti officials denied that he was in their custody when the Philippine Embassy personnel started looking for him four days after he was arrested.

He was later transferred to the Suleiviya Central Jail in Shanq town where he was initially put in a maximum-security cell.

A Filipino inmate at the jail was able to call the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait to inform them of Teddy's plight.

Teddy said his jail cell was dirty with no bed or beddings. "We slept on the bare cement floor." While he was there, a Kuwaiti and three Bangladeshis were hanged to death.

A HAPPY reunion of man and wife.

PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

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4. Ugaliin ang madalas at maayos na pagtapon ng mga gamit na may respiratory secretions (plema o sipon) tulad ng tissue, plastic na baso, atbp.
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INQUIRER Mindanao
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The invisible Manobos of Kalamansig

By Elmer V. Sayre, Ph.D.
Sultan Kudarat

THE TOWN of Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat can be reached by a four-hour ride by fast craft from the port of Cotabato, a seven-hour ride by a slow-moving boat in the same port or by a six-hour bus or jeepney ride via Isulan town.

Kalamansig was born out of the boom of the Sta. Clara logging company in the early 1970s. When the logging company folded up, Kalamansig became a sleepy town whose inhabitants depended mainly upon fishing and farming for their livelihood. It is perhaps one of the few towns in the Philippines were there is no cellphone signal and where newspapers are hard to come by.

Kalamansig is derived from the word "kalaman sa ig" or Manobo of the waters. A tribe of about 34 Manobo families live off the coastal waters of Barangay Paril, a village of about 470 households and situated along the coastal area of Kalamansig. When asked how long they have lived there, they said since time immemorial. It may be of interest to science to perhaps compare their DNA structure to that of the Tabon Man in Palawan.

I came to know this tribe in the course of my work with a project that is aimed at enhancing and protecting coastal and marine biodiversity in Mindanao by mobilizing local communities to manage and protect these resources.

Disappearing

When I first conducted meetings and pulong-pulong, some audacious Manobos stayed in the periphery, never talking and disappearing after about an hour or so. My interpretation was that they were intimidated by the Christian settlers who are attending the meetings and who are usually the most open and talkative. Paraphernalia used during meetings such as manila paper, pencil and pentel pens may have also intimidated them. The average education they have attained is Grade 2. Because of this singular phenomenon, they became "invisible" and could not be reached by government assistance since most of our methods hinge on the ability of the beneficiaries to read and write. Our support programs and assistance bring with them methods and systems that are predetermined and inaccessible, written already in black and white and ready to be downloaded to the barrios then progress to be monitored and measured later on.

The Manobos could not understand these, and given the timeframes and outputs which we are accustomed to and by which we will also be measured by our bosses in the central office so we will either be given a raise or a demotion, the tendency is for us to do the job quickly and target the most educated among the inhabitants which are mostly the Christian settlers and traders residing in or near the barrio center.

Left on their own

In this instance, the Manobos living in the periphery are left to their own devices. They become invisible, never seen, never heard and never talked to.

How does one bring them out to be visible again? The answer is simple and basic: this is by shedding out all our pretensions of higher education and start learning from them in their own communities and surroundings and where the world-view of life, love and survival is dictated in their own terms.

In their surroundings, they are at ease, children frolic by the sea with white sand all day long. The adults never watch over them and they become one of the elements.

MANOBO environment off the coastline of Paril and Sangay in Kalamansig. ELMER SAYRE/

I heard of one story here that there was a time when a passenger boat capsized, the Manobo children swam like turtles, aiding passengers to the safety of the seashore.

During my visits to their area, the situation was reversed, I became the student, they the patient teachers. For example, I wondered how two to three of them could ride in a small, hand-carved outrigger effortlessly gliding in the waters while they went fishing while I would instantly sink. Over the centuries and handed down by their ancestors was the exquisite knowledge of balance and poise we can only dream of because our physique is more attuned to the McDonald's society.

When fishing, they use small rounded stones attached to a strip of coconut leaf at the end of the line near where the hook is located. I wondered about the reason for this ingenious contraption. They explained to me that when they throw the line to the sea, the stone would make the hook sink very fast and with the multicolored bait made of cotton strips flashing by, big fishes would dart and capture this, in turn effectively hooking them. If a slow-moving, traditional hook and line is used, the fish would only circle this warily, nibble at the bait and quickly disappear. No amount of modern technology can match this simple yet very effective method.

Student

When one becomes a student of the Manobos, (the Manobos) begin to open up. For example, I began explaining to them that corals when blasted with dynamite takes hundreds of years to grow again. We took a swim and observed how coral rubble do not easily recover and how fishes are dependent upon the corals for sustenance, sanctuary and shade. They then were transformed into active environmental activists, fiercely defending their coral resource against intruders. I informed them that they should protect the sea turtles and their eggs every time these animals come to their shores to lay their eggs and to rest.

But I know that this will take time since the Manobos particularly single out the eggs of pawikans as extremely delicious and as aphrodisiacs.

On the whole, the situation becomes two-way in nature and we work and study as colleagues and co-equal. Trust is slowly being built as pretensions are shed and my graduate diplomas symbolically burned and destroyed. What can easily be done, what cannot be and what takes time to do is understood in the most basic manner and my haste and urgency to do things is diminished as I learn to go with the ebb and flow of the tides and the cycles of the season with the expert nurturance and guidance of my Manobo mentors.

Editor's note: Elmer V. Sayre, 42 years old, a true-blooded Mindanaoan, works as a community development specialist in a project in Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat

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A 'red day' arrives in peasant village where rebels reign

By Franklin A. Caliguid
Claver, Surigao del Norte

THE MORNING of March 29 was no ordinary one for Verdan Angab and his wife Asun.It was past eight in the morning and a tide of people and children from wretched and secluded villages nearby gathered.

An hour later, peasants, farmers and fishermen alike witnessed what is called the greatest "celebration" of the oppressed and exploited.

"This is the people's celebration," Angab quipped as he looked at a band of about 50 "red fighters," mostly young men marching and chanting revolutionary slogans.

As they flocked, the spirits of revolution filled the air fanning the 34th year since the peasant-based New People's Army, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was established.

Like a mainstream fête of sorts in low land areas, the villagers acted like devotees of a religious order, singing and adoring the revolutionary cause as speakers one after the other delivered their pieces.

A sea of floating fists and high-powered rifles in the air was a consistent scene, which often drew ecstatic applause and cheers.

'Red day'

A cheerful Angab, 58, lamented that he had waited for the "red day" calling it as their only avenue, in which to emancipate themselves from the scorn of oppression, injustice and poverty.

Between puffs from his tobacco cigar, Angab was a picture of boundless optimism and high hopes.

"Red is the order of the day," he said in the vernacular.

Angab said "red" signifies the masa's dedication to the revolution aimed at creating a just society void of class distinction.

George Madlos, spokesperson of the CPP-NPA -Mindanao Commission, then greeted the enthusiastic crowd.

"We will not stop until we achieve victory," Madlos declared as the people stood to deliver applause.

He boasted that gains recently achieved by their heightened tactical offensives signaled the eventual defeat of the government.

At a certain point, a slender guerilla commander interrupted and gave short briefings on security matters.

He acquainted the "beloved masa" and some journalists covering the event where to take cover and exit in the event of enemy fire.

Danger

More than the earthly reminder of risks, the reality of imminent danger, uncertainty and suspicion had taken center stage amid the jubilations.

People around began to shy away and be very reluctant whenever engaged in a conversation with unfamiliar faces.

As a 19 year-old NPA fighter, who only identified himself as Ka Vic puts it, "new faces" or strangers should understand the masa because they are caught between reality and illusion.

GATHERING OF ARTISTS

Poetry takes limelight Fridays in Butuan

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Butuan City

WHAT to do on a slow Friday night? For poets and poetry lovers, writers, visual artists and painters, folk-singers, historians and literature teachers and friends, it's got to be Poetry Friday at Yentle's in Butuan City.

The small but growing crowd gathers once a month since February as part of the Butuan Arts Council's regular activity to forge solidarity and camaraderie between the local artists sector and their friends.

"It's one venue for us to be constantly in touch, both as a form of artistic expression and to have our hair down," said Owen Jaen, a young multimedia practitioner who serves as the coordinator.

Based on the three poetry sessions held the past three months, the casual gathering was a roaring success.

"Poetry and songs flowed and all eyes and ears glowed," said Vangie Pena-Dominise, a poetry enthusiast.

All agreed to pursue the activity to the end.

"This is what we have been wanting all along, to provide a venue for local artists and the community for some collective soul-searching and artistic release," said Ruth Buna Requirme, a special program for the arts (SPA) teacher of Agusan National High School and the BAC president.

The council is a revitalized local artists organization put up in 1993. Two of its biggest achievements were the holding of the local school-based theater festival and the hosting of the Mindanaowide-Mindanao Theater Festival (Mindulani) in 1995.

Though members of the group informally parted ways in the late 1990s, they individually continued to hone their craft, some getting national and international recognition. The artists are Anoy Catague, Titing Trinquite, Omar Arellano, Bobby Cielo, Richard Belar, Greggo Uriarte, Melvin Lamanilao, Lilet Veloso, Casiana Torralba and Darwin Falcon.

Today, the BAC is a bag of veteran and amateur artists finding their place in the city's cultural climate.

What bugs the artists though is that some people, supposedly in the authority, look upon them as mere entertainers with cheap price tags.

"The veterans [among us] have been writing, painting, directing or performing or making music for 15 years and they still want to hire us for free. That is pretty insulting," one member said.

Mixed crowd

Poetry Friday's crowd is a mix of young—high school students who, based on their poems, keep on falling in and out of love, and yuppies (with dates)—to loveless middle-age folks who are probably reeling with envy.

In between, songs accompanied by extemporaneous dances are rendered.

Fr. Joesilo Amalla, also a history scholar and promoter of the Butuanon language, shared the local version of the "Hail Mary" to the awed crowd.

Janice Sarmiento, who represented the women's sector, regaled the crowd with her reading of an excerpt from the "Vagina Monologues."

Lawyer Gluce Jayme retrieves his past with some of his political poems.

But the encompassing charm and beauty of the night is celebrating the poignancy and variety of truth each reader has rendered, lifting the people's spirit and freeing their souls.

PDI PHOTO/PDI MINDANAO

A POET delivering his piece on a Friday night in Butuan's Yentle.

'Bubbly maverick' Kris to run for Senate in 2010

From page A1

In the interview, Aquino considered her tactlessness, for which she is widely known, as an asset. "When I open my mouth, people know that whatever comes out is true," she told the Times.

Her flightiness has done no damage either. According to the story, advertising surveys reveal Aquino has a high credibility as product endorser.

Sure winner

That's why when Aquino does decide to run for public office, "I know I'd win," she told the Times.

Aquino, of course, has had experience on the campaign trail. "She started as a child, climbing onstage to sing at her father's campaign rallies, " said the story.

The profile also likened the youngest daughter of Ninoy Aquino, "the assassinated challenger to former President Ferdinand Marcos, and now a national martyr," to former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

"The vividness and impulsiveness and hunger for attention, the unabashed self-absorption, the ambition and the calculating mind hidden somewhere behind the fluff - there is no one she resembles so much as Imelda Marcos, the-former first lady, " went the comparison.

Soap opera

The story went on to say that youngest Aquino daughter has turned her unsullied family narrative "from a passion play into a soap opera " played out on her morning talk show, her weekly gossip show and her prime-time game show, all on television.

"If the previous Aquino generation shimmered in the glow of a halo, this one is irradiated by limelight," said the story.

"The strange thing is that it's weirdly interesting. This is not, after all, just another bright plastic bauble in the world of entertainment. This is the bearer of the Aquiino name, the more revered and unsullied in the nation,." said the story.

The feature also talked about the public's disapproval of Aquino's inability "to resist a series of actors and basketball players, usually married and a good deal older than she is."

Quoted in the story was the widely-repeated quip by Rep. Imee Marcos, eldest daughter of the late president: "She makes me look like a nun. "

12-day hunger strikers ...

From page A1

group, issued a statement yesterday calling for a "second batch" of hunger strikers to take over their campaign "if we all fall down."

He said he was getting weaker by the day, and complained of chest pain and sore throat. From a pre-strike weight of 135 pounds, he's now down to 120, he said.

"I cannot walk too far or stand too long," said Verzola, an electrical engineer by trade. "Dust, fumes, and noise from the nearby highway assail our camp-out 24 hours a day. It is hot during the day and it's difficult to sleep at night. I do not know how many more days I can last."

Verzola said he and his colleagues went on strike also out of a sense of urgency: The commercial sale of Bt corn will supposedly start this month, or five months after it received President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval.

"There's an almost invisible time bomb about to be planted in our farms in the barrios this May," he said, referring to the controversial corn variety that is capable of producing its own pesticide against corn borers.

Citing scientific studies, the anti-Bt corn movement mainly warns of the possible health risks of introducing GMOs to the food chain and the ecological disruption that can ensue if GMOs inadvertently crossbreed with indigenous crop species.

The protest is particularly directed at the US biotechnology firm Monsanto, which owns the patent to the corn and maintains field testing sites in the provinces of Bukidnon, Isabela, Camarines Sur and South Cotabato.

Golden 'kuhol'

Bertuso, 32, said the entry of Bt corn could be likened to the propagation of the so-called "golden kuhol (snail)" during the Marcos regime.

The exotic snail—then promoted as a rich source of protein and a boon to the Filipino farmer's diet—turned out to be a "pest" in rice paddies where it was allowed to spread.

"That is what happens when you introduce a species in a place where it has no natural enemies; it destroys the indigenous species," said Bertuso, a master's degree holder in crop science from the Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

She said that she had lost six kilos since giving up solid food for the campaign, and that her mental concentration, especially when reading, had begun to be affected.

Cervantes, a 26-year-old political science graduate of the University of Negros Occidental and now a yoga practitioner, staves off hunger pangs by reading the Bhagavad-Gita.

He also keeps next to his cot some music cassette tapes, mostly reggae.

For Cervantes, the hunger strike "invokes a spiritual statement that you don't have the right to go against the natural energy of the Supreme, that you can't play with God's creation."

Both Bertuso and Cervantes are from the Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment.

The Sierra Club, an international non-government organization based in the United States and Canada, has expressed "full support" for the strikers' campaign against the sale and distribution of Bt corn.

In a letter sent to Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, it said in part: "The Sierra Club believes that the development and use of products from genetic engineering research should be based on a reverence for nature and life, as well as socioeconomic equity, conditions which are not met by the proposed release of Bt corn."

Stream of visitors

The strikers said a steady stream of visitors, supporters and members of the media had made their campaign less of an ordeal.

Among yesterday's visitors was environmentalist Odette Alcantara, who brought ice and cucumber—the latter not to be eaten but to serve as "relaxant" eye patches.

The strikers' camp is equipped with a laptop computer, a printer and a TV set, all housed in their tent. There's also an oxygen tank and an ambulance on standby.

The DA allows them to use its toilet and its power lines for their electronic gadgets

Five to eight supporters, who have a bamboo hut of their own, monitor the strikers' medical condition and attend to their needs.

The camp has been displaying to passersby samples of locally available fruit products said to contain GMOs among the raw ingredients.

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12. #2746 Tanguile street Brgy San Martin de Porres United, Paranaque City	97698	324	2,762,700.00
13. Lot 17 Blk 21 Piat street Rosario Complex San Pedro, Laguna	109455	180	690,240.00
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1) Interested parties are required to secure copies of: (a) **INSTRUCTION TO OFFERORS**, (b) **OFFER FORMS** from the Disposition of Assets Department, 5th Level, GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City;
2) Sealed proposals in triplicate will be received at the 3rd Level, HRDD Lobby, GSIS Headquarters Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City starting from **8:00 A.M. BUT NOT LATER THAN 1:30 P.M.** on **May 22,2003** and immediately afterwhich, the proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.
3) Each offer proposal shall be accompanied by a **DEPOSIT IN CASH** or **CERTIFIED CASHIER's/MANAGER's CHECK** issued in Metro Manila, payable to the GSIS in an amount equivalent to at least **TEN (10%) PERCENT** of the total offer price.
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(Sgd.) ARNOLD C. CUASAY
SVP-Housing & Real Property Development Group
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Inquirer--May 4, 2003

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome has hogged the headlines for weeks, raising questions as to what we can actually do to fight it. The answer was remarkably simple. Keep yourself healthy. Now, more than ever, vitamins have never been so important.

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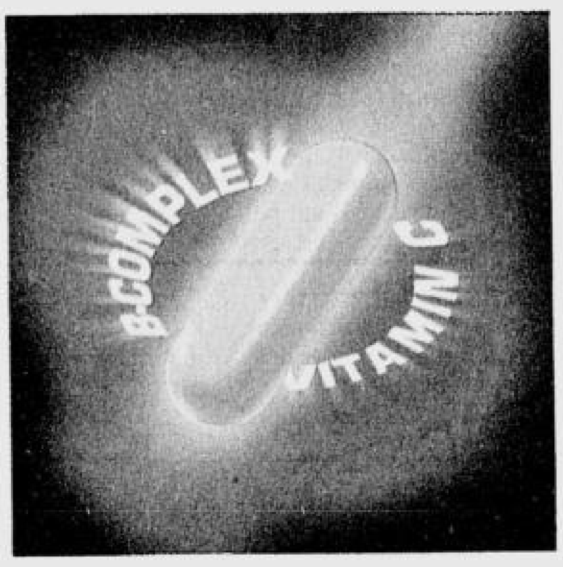

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BE SAFER FROM SARS: BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY

Like the common cold, SARS has no cure yet. And we have no other recourse but to take all measures to prevent it, making sure we take the requisite vitamins which will boost our immunity to give us stronger resistance.

** from article by M.P. Macapinlac, M.D., Ph.D.*

Turkish press reveals spectacular details ...

From page A1

'Lacaba said that according to the Yes! translator it was not clear from the original story in Turkish whether Yilmaz's father has been meted out a 10-year sentence or is already serving it.

Contacted by Yes! editor in chief Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon on April 23 at her condo in Beverly Hills, bought when she was still single, Ruffa seemed not to know anything about Yilmaz's father. Maglipon was asked to call back. And when she did, Ruffa told her she had just been on the phone with Yilmaz, who was then in Istanbul.

Maglipon reported: "She says Yilmaz told her: 'Yes, the news about my father is true. Three years ago,. the Turkish government wanted to know where he got his 9 billion dollars. They suspected that the money came from drugs and arms or whatever. But my father is in diamonds and petroleum. The [prosecution] wanted 10 years for my father. The trial is ongoing. He is free."

In a follow-up story bylined by Demirhan Hararli, the April 11 online edition of Hurriyet came up with another startling revelation, Lacaba said.

In the translation made by Yes! Turkish sources, the title of the report was: "Yilmaz is married to me, he cannot get married."

Lacaba reported that Hurriyet quoted Turkey's neighbor, Iraq, very few actually made it. Also, Yilmaz and company arrived in Manila on a commercial flight, not on a private plane. So maybe we need to take certain aspects of the Hurriyet report with a grain of salt."

According to Lacaba, "The report goes on to provide other details about Yilmaz:"

'People heard of Yilmaz Bektas, the son of Haci Muhittin Bektas who has a 10-year sentence for drug smuggling, when he opened a bar in Bodrum with Mucat Bilican, the son of Director General of Security Necati Bilican.

Selen Gorguzel at length (and the Turkish source translated):

"My husband's marriage is naturally a serious problem. We have become used to his philandering, but the news that he has gotten married is a different matter. We have a daughter, and she is growing up. Such an event irritates both me and my daughter.

'Yilmaz always told me: 'These things belong to the amusement part of life. The other women mean nothing. You are my wife. The others remain in the amusement dimension.'

'He told me that the other women are not important. This kind of arrangement has started to become our lifestyle.'

Based on the report, Lacaba said "that Selen Gorguzel knew about Yilmaz's relationship with this woman—obviously referring to Ruffa—because of the news about it in the foreign press."

Lacaba quoted Selen as saying: "I cannot stand this anymore. The messages and mail coming from this woman disturb me."

Lacaba said that Selen alleged that, She (Ruffa) always tries to tell me that she has an affair with Yilmaz. She curses me on the phone. I have changed my phone number several times because of her."

Lacaba noted that from the Hurriyet interview it would appear Selen is not interested in hanging on to Yilmaz. 'I have decided to divorce my husband. From now on I would like to attend to my business,' Lacaba quoted the news report.

"I wish him happiness," she added.

"Although its population is predominantly Muslim, Turkey is a secular state that abolished polygamy in 1926," Lacaba pointed out. He added that Hurriyet cited "the legal authorities" as saying that Yilmaz's second marriage in the Philippines is "against Turkish Law, Item 145, and is invalid."

Only got engaged

The Lacaba report also said: "Interviewed by Hurriyet, Yilmaz tried to rationalize the ceremony that he and Ruffa went through in Manila: 'We did not get married. We got engaged. The marriage will be in Istanbul in June.'"

In its April 14 online edition, Hurriyet repeats Selen Gorguzel's assertion: "I am still married to Yilmaz Bektas. We have a three-and-a-half-year-old daughter.

The rest of Lacaba's report said: "At the same time, Hurriyet gives Yilmaz's side on the still-to-come divorce and the not-quite marriage in more detail.

'We [Yilmaz and Selen] had already made the decision to get divorced before I got married to Ruffa. It is not a recent decision,' Yilmaz was quoted as saying.

Ruffa's groom added: 'The marriage in the Philippines has no legal meaning. We [Yilmaz and Ruffa] have not signed anything.'

'A ceremony was just conducted. We will wait for the divorce to get married. Later, we will have cocktails and we will sign. Selen and I were living apart for a year. She also knows my new wife.'

When Maglipon talked with Ruffa, she said she had seen the Hurriyet stories saying "her Turkish husband has a wife and child back home, and she knows that she is being made to look like a homewrecker."

Maglipon reported: "She takes the reports head on. 'Yilmaz has never been married to anyone but me,' she says. 'I am the only girl in his life now, I am the only wife, I am the only Mrs. Yilmaz Bektas.'

"She does not deny there were ladies galore." 'My husband is young, handsome and high profile in Turkish society. There have always been girls running after him. He dated models. I know he had five girlfriends before me. He had a colorful love life, he was a playboy.'

"She tells us that when she met Yilmaz three years ago, none of these girls were around anymore." 'I have not seen anyone of them,' she swears. 'None. Not even Selena Gorguzel.

'I don't know her, I've never met her, I don't know what she looks like. It was over for her and Yilmaz seven years ago.'

"She swears she has never called, emailed, texted or otherwise harassed the woman." 'Why should I? *Ako ang nakatira sa bahay, ako ang inuuwian. Bakit ko naman siya papansinin pa?*

Maglipon's article continues: "'*Hindi siya pinakasalan.* I'm very sure. Otherwise, Turkey would not have given Yilmaz this letter-certificate *na tinatawag na* capacity to marry. We had to present this to the pastor for us to marry.'

"Moreover, they are to be married again, in Turkey, next year," Maglipon reported quoting Ruffa.

"It is true, Ruffa says, that Ilknaz is Yilmaz's daughter." 'In fact, she sees her father *mga* once a month when she visits. I take her shopping. We're cool.'

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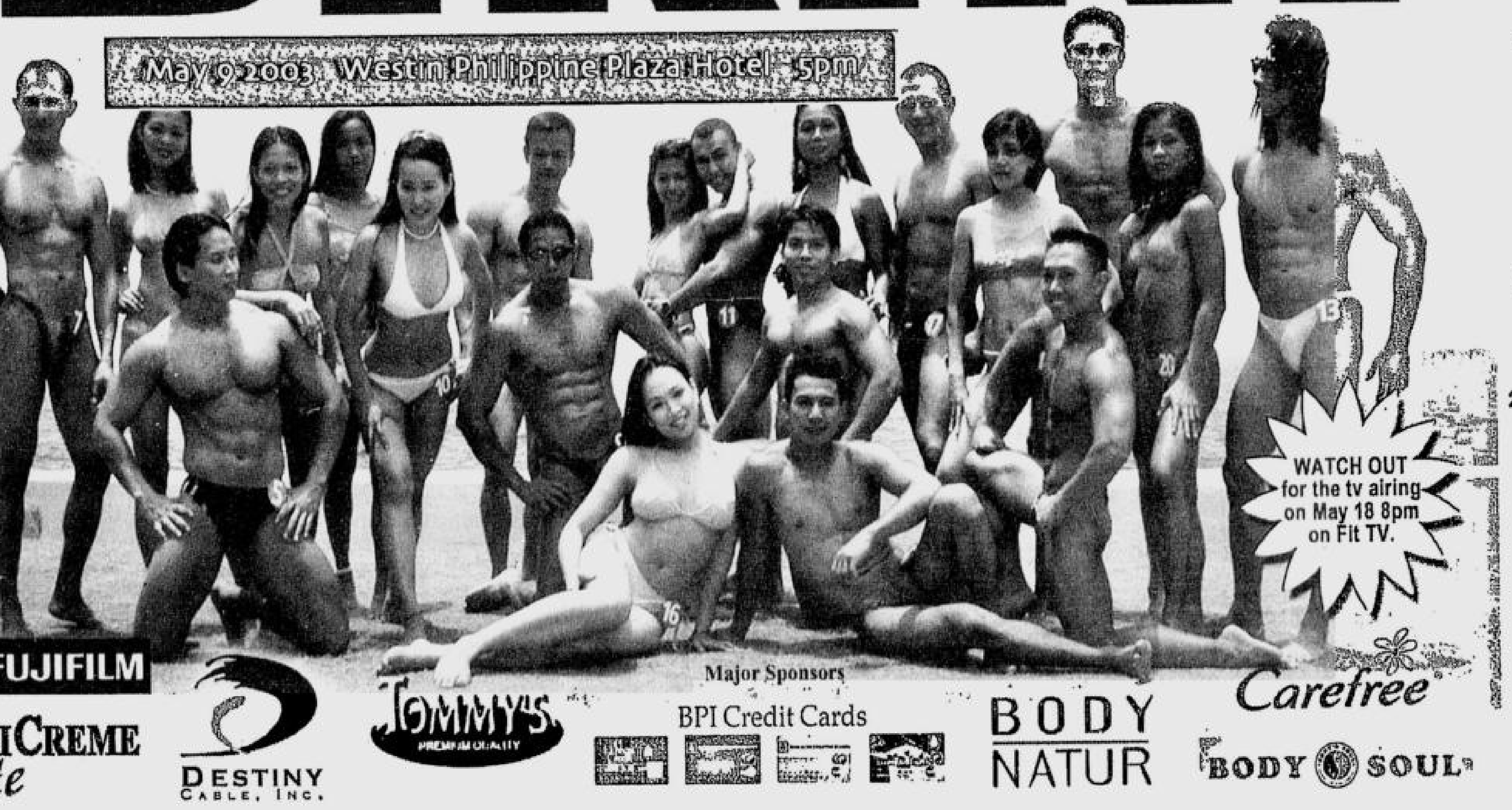

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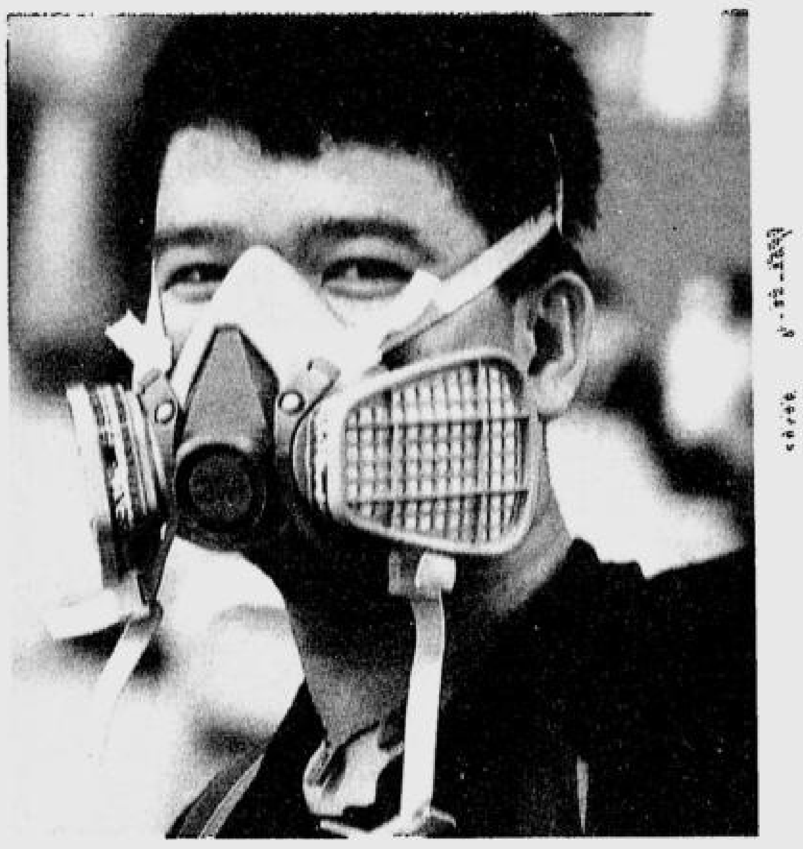
HONG KONG is set to launch a big campaign to unveil its Smile HK project, but RP is just beginning to get used to this protective accessory. ROGER MARGALLO



WITH a real gas mask, seaman Danilo Paule is not just SARS-ready. ROGER MARGALLO

HK set to unmask to show off city of smiles

From page A1

But it is an inconvenience that she and Hong Kong's seven million people have to live with for some time, despite the fact that the number of new SARS cases had begun to drop—an indication that the epidemic could be contained in the near future.

"It's so tiring having to wear a mask for 10 hours every day," Arnate said in Filipino. But she conceded that it was a necessity for a diabetic like herself: "I need to wear it because I'm always outdoors and interacting with many people."

Cherry Pie Durano, a shopkeeper at the Little Quiapo "carinderia," and Jane Bagos, a domestic helper in Kowloon district, are also complaining about the face mask.

Durano, 30, said she felt "suffocated" by it, and Bagos, 23, said it prevented her from recognizing her friends, and vice versa.

At Worldwide House, which closely resembles Manila's Divisoria and where Filipinos go to send money home or shop for Philippine products, more and more people are going without masks.

This is reflective of what is gradually happening elsewhere in Hong Kong, where long queues for the much sought after—and overpriced—product used to be a common sight.

Bad for business

Other businessmen believe that the face mask has brought more damage to business than the SARS virus itself.

Federico Agus, 48, operations manager at RCBC Hong Kong, said: "That mask, it's bad for business. The sight of someone in a mask in an establishment causes fear and drives away business."

The face mask has also been the scourge of Hong Kong's tourism and entertainment industry, which has called for its phaseout in hotels, bars and restaurants.

"We need to start taking off our mask to prove to the world that it's safe to [come here] once the outbreak is over," James Lu, chair of the Hong Kong Hotel Association, said at a recent gathering of top industry leaders where almost every one was without a mask.

Large-scale plans are now underway to "un-mask" the once vibrant "City of Life."

An unveiling ceremony, which involves pulling down a giant face mask, will kick off big carnivals at the entertainment centers in Lan Kwai Fong and Wanchai district.

Under the "Smile HK!" project, the city, as well as trains, buses and airplanes, will be decorated with smile logos.

"Smiles are more contagious than the virus," said Prof. Tony Sin of the Hong Kong Baptist University, who heads this initiative. "Our visitors need to once again see our smiles. We want to make them feel they are safe and very much welcome here."

But Hong Kong health officials continue to prescribe the wearing of face masks to the general public as a precautionary measure.

It is mostly the local Chinese residents who heed this prescription. Most of the foreigners don't.

David Heyman, World Health Organization director for communicable diseases, suggests a "judicious" approach to the issue.

He earlier said that with the face mask, the public had "unfortunately perceived greater risk than they should be perceiving."

Shoppers unfazed by SARS scare

From page A1

Megamall in Mandaluyong on Labor Day and on Friday for the mall-wide sale.

On Friday the INQUIRER saw only one person in the mall wearing a surgical mask: a young pregnant woman. Her male companion did not have a mask on.

On Thursday the mall's cinemas were also filled for the opening of the films "X-Men 2" and "Till There Was You."

Megamall obviously prepared for the weekend sale that lasts until today. It decorated its entrances with red and white balloons that reminded some people of Valentine's Day.

The halls were filled with store displays announcing bargain prices.

Other shopping malls in Metro Manila were also crowded during Labor Day even if they did not have a mall-wide sale.

At Robinson's in Ermita, Manila, no one was seen with a mask on.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has quoted the World Health Organization in saying that ordinary people did not have to wear protective masks because they were not in close contact with SARS patients.

She said that wearing masks every day was a "false security blanket," and that ordinary people who insisted on doing so were being paranoid.

Only doctors, nurses and health workers who attend to SARS patients need to wear masks and other protective gear, she stressed.

The President has urged the public to be vigilant and informed about SARS, but not to overreact.

"Panic will do more harm to the economy than SARS itself," she said.

She noted that the number of people at the Pistay Dayat, a fiesta at San Fabian, Pangasinan, that she attended last week, was considerably lower than in the past.

"But there's no SARS in San Fabian," she said. "San Fabian is very, very far from Alcala [town], and there's also no SARS in Alcala. This only means that what we need is truth, which will free the country from SARS."

Barangay Vacante in Alcala, home village of two SARS patients who died last month, was put under quarantine for 14 days.

The quarantine has since been lifted, and the President visited the place last Friday to prove that Vacante is safe from SARS.

Worst not over yet for Pangasinan's SARS village

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ALCALA, Pangasinan—The worst is not yet over for residents of Barangay Vacante.

Although it has been declared SARS-free, the sale of tobacco, its main agricultural produce, has suffered a major setback with the price of the leaves dropping to P5-8 from P35-38 and no traders coming to buy.

The village, like others in this central Pangasinan town (pop: 35,756), is engaged in planting burley tobacco, which residents alternate with rice, according to Mayor Juanito Collado.

Now farmers have to take their crop of tobacco leaves to traders in Villasis, Rosales and other towns, and sell at prices dictated by the traders.

Jaime Corpuz, barangay chair of Mangandonay, said farmers would lose much with a buying price of P5 a kilo. He said farmers still had to pay for the cost of transporting the crop.

The farmers lay the blame for the drop in prices not only on the SARS scare but also on other factors, like globalization and the war in Iraq.

Hermana Nario, 67, of Barangay Pindangan, said that even before Adela Catalon and her father Mauricio, both of Vacante, died of SARS, the price of tobacco had gone down.

"It's not only the produce of Vacante that can't be sold but also the crop of the entire town and other tobacco-producing towns," Corpuz said.

Barangay Kagawad Juan Ablao of San Pedro Apartado wondered why the trading of tobacco was abruptly stopped this year. "We are at a loss on what to do with our tobacco leaves," he said.

The farmers said they had heard reports that tobacco manufacturers would rather buy tobacco leaves from other countries like China, because these were costing less.

At a SARS seminar conducted by the Department of Interior and Local Government in Manila, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit urged the public not to "punish" the people of Alcala or other towns hit by SARS.

Dayrit said the Alcala folk had found their tobacco and corn crops rotting away.

"There is no sense in punishing the whole province for one SARS case," he said. "One SARS case does not a disaster make."

Dayrit also said Alcala produce was "fit for consumption and sale."

"We're fighting against a microbe, not against people with SARS or municipalities believed to be infected by it," he said.

Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario admitted during the press briefing that the fight against SARS in the provinces was "characterized more by hysteria than anything else."

But Interior Secretary Joey Lina vowed to charge local officials with "neglect of duty" should they put up a "blockade" to prevent the entry of suspected SARS patients.

"There are sanctions awaiting them ... neglect of duty ... basically administrative sanctions," he said.

With a report from Armand N. Nocum in Manila

2nd Filipina dies in HK

From page A1

had been informed of her death.

She refused to provide CY's personal details, and invoked policy to explain her refusal.

Asked if she planned to attend the cremation ceremony, as she did in the case of Adela Dalingay, the first Filipino in Hong Kong to die of SARS, Bataclan said: "Yes, if the family asks us to. We have expressed our condolences and told them that the consulate would extend any assistance they would need. But now all arrangements are being handled directly by the family, and they have not asked for anything."

Dalingay, who worked as a domestic helper in Hong Kong, died on March 24 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Her parents brought home her ashes for burial in their native Abra.

Bataclan said the two new SARS cases reported last week, a male Hong Kong resident and a Filipino woman, were in stable condition at the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, respectively.

She said no new SARS cases involving Filipinos had been reported since last week.

The number of Filipinos confirmed afflicted with SARS in Hong Kong has reached nine. Of the number, two have died and five have recovered and been discharged from hospital.

The Hong Kong health department said that as of 5 p.m. yesterday, there were now 1,621 SARS cases after 10 new cases were reported yesterday. Of the number, 179 have died (after nine new deaths yesterday), and 878 have recovered.

It added that while cases continued to trend lower in the last two weeks, the mortality rate had jumped by 10 percent.

On Wednesday, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said some overseas Filipino workers were fleeing Hong Kong because of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

She wryly noted that when the US-Iraq war broke out last month, Filipinos in the Chinese territory did not feel compelled to return to the safety of home. "But now," she said at a briefing in Malacañang, "some of our countrymen are leaving Hong Kong out of fear of SARS. It seems they're more afraid of SARS than the war."

Sto. Tomas, however, did not say how many had voluntarily given up their jobs.

She also belied reports that Hong Kong employers could no longer afford to hire Filipino domestic helpers because of the hard times brought by the SARS scare.

"The fact is up to now, Hong Kong is processing [working] visas for domestic helpers," she said. "We'd know it if we see a slowdown in the issuance of visas."

Sto. Tomas said it was the Philippine government that actually slowed down the processing of new contracts for domestic helpers in Hong Kong because of the SARS crisis. But she acknowledged the business decline in the territory because of the crisis.

The Philippine government is tapping the help of officials in 42,000 barangays to monitor the health conditions of OFWs who return to the country at a rate of about 8,000 a day.

But in a press briefing during a SARS conference called by the Department of Interior and Local Government, James Marty Lim, president of the Liga ng Mga Barangay, said they had "neither the logistics nor expertise to do the job right now."

Lim said the job might be easily done in the provinces where people knew one another, but not in urban barangays with very large areas and populations.

"Some of our officials are not qualified to do the job," he said, adding that the current attitude of barangay officials on SARS was to either attend to it head-on or run away from it.

He said they were trying to find ways of addressing the problem without putting officials at risk, as what happened in Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan, home village of SARS casualties Mauricio and Adela Catalon, where the barangay captain himself was quarantined.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina is anchoring the fight against SARS on the wide machinery of village officials, who have been ordered to form their respective Barangay Health Emergency Response Team.

The response team will monitor the entry of OFWs, take their temperature readings twice a day, ensure that they are observing the 14-day quarantine, and take them to hospitals or SARS centers if they come down with fever.

In a memorandum, Lina also put local officials at the frontline in the fight against SARS.

He directed them to coordinate with barangay officials in responding to possible SARS cases and make calamity funds available for the purpose.

Tougher laws

In her weekly radio message yesterday in Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she would ask Congress to pass tougher laws to enforce quarantine and other measures to contain SARS.

"I will be certifying as urgent a proposed SARS Act. This will show our people that we mean business in containing SARS," she said

Ms Macapagal wants the new laws to institutionalize the measures she laid out in an executive order last week.

In that EO, she granted Dayrit sweeping powers to contain, control and prevent the spread of SARS in the country.

Dayrit was authorized to enlist the support of the military, police and any government agency to enforce quarantine on a certain area; order the arrest and detention of any suspected SARS patient; prevent the entry and exit of persons and cargos to prevent local SARS transmission; close down any public or private school and to use such buildings to contain SARS; and come up with regulations to contain, treat and manage SARS cases.

"Containment measures may seem harsh, but I seek our people's understanding and full compliance," she said yesterday in her radio message.

Later at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, Ms Macapagal again called on local officials to educate the public about SARS and to cooperate with containment measures.

"Let's together appeal to the public to remain calm and to seek information from credible sources," she told the assembled mayors and governors from all over the country.

She also urged the media to be "responsible sources of verified information" on SARS cases, and called on the officials to "do our share in obtaining the necessary information" on developments on SARS "as well as in coordinating with the international community on holistic and best practices to deal with SARS." *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila*

SARS DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

SUNDAY 4 May 2003

Q. A PARISHIONER ASKS: " I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE CHURCH ADVISES NOT TO TAKE COMMUNION BY MOUTH TO PREVENT SARS?

A. The priest gives you communion; you stick out your tongue and he puts the host in your mouth. He does this until the queue ends.

There is a chance for droplets from the parishioner's mouth to transfer to the priest's hand. If the person in front of you is a SARS patient, you may breathe in the infected droplet. This is considered a close contact transmission. No matter how small the possibility, there is a risk of getting infected. The same holds true in face-to-face confessions, kissing or touching statues of saints and holding hands during the singing of the Lord's Prayer.

Nowadays, "it is better to be safe than sorry" and like what has always been said "prevention is better than cure."

Make it a habit to cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
Don't spit anywhere and wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

Reported SARS cases in the Country
(March 17 - May 3, 2003)

SARS suspects, total admitted	71
total discharged	59
still confined	12
SARS cases	3
SARS deaths	2
SARS recovered/cured	1

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Hopefully, a roof over their heads

OVERCOME with excitement, Gertrudes Rael of the Bisig Ng Kabataan Homeowners Association breaches the presidential security cordon and assaults Ms Macapagal with hugs and kisses—an offense the President is only too happy to bear. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Tina Santos

VARIOUS government agencies yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement providing funds for the relocation and resettlement of squatter families living along Metro Manila's railroad tracks.

No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo was on hand to witness the signing of the MOA in Caloocan City, where there's an ongoing relocation program for the so-called "rail families."

The relocation and resettlement program is being undertaken to give way to the modernization and rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railways.

The MOA was signed by Secretary Mike Defensor (Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council), Secretary Emilia Boncodin (Department of Budget and Management), Secretary Manuel Roxas (National Development Company), general manager Ed Pamintuan (National Housing Authority), general manager Jose Maria Sarasola III (Philippine National Railways), Jose Cortez (North Luzon Railway Corp.) and Rufo Colayco (Bases Conversion Development Authority).

The government needs around P4 billion to complete the relocation of some 70,000 families living along the railways. However, only P550 million will be provided by the NHA and from this year's budget.

Milagros Dimalanta, a 50-year-old widow whose family is among those being relocated from Caloocan, said she's happy they would soon have a house they could call their own.

A mother of six, Aling Milagros used to be among the hundreds of defiant rail dwellers who resisted government's clearing operations in Caloocan City. She used to join protest rallies as the demolition team moved in and started tearing down their shanties.

But, as the saying goes, all's well that ends well.

Under the agreement, the NDC will extend loans to the NHA for the additional funding requirements of the resettlement program. The amount will be sourced from the flotation of the NDC Development Bonds.

On the other hand, the NHA, in coordination with concerned local government units and people's organizations, has been tasked to prepare the resettlement plans, solicit proposals for relocation projects and undertake pre-relocation and relocation activities.

Relocation of the affected settlers in Caloocan started on March 31 for the North rail section and is scheduled to begin in June for the South rail section.

Defensor expressed hope that the resettlement can be completed within the two-year time frame set by the government.

"The President wants to ensure the proper relocation of the affected families as soon as possible so that the rehabilitation of the railway system can begin immediately," he said.

Aside from the MOA signing, certificate of awards have also been distributed to 831 families belonging to the Bisig ng Kabataan Homeowners Association Inc., a community which occupies a portion of the PNR's "non-core area."

The families have opted instead to buy the lands they are occupying.

Señeres: Not enough men to run NLRC

By Leila Salaverria

THE ISSUE is simply lack of manpower, not graft and corruption.

National Labor Relations Commission Chair Roy Señeres cited in response to complaints on delayed resolution of labor cases.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson was earlier reported to have said that he would investigate the matter after labor leaders brought it to his attention.

The senator had attributed the delays to graft and corruption.

"I welcome the move of Senator Lacson," Señeres told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday. "I admit that there are delays, but this is precisely the reason why, during my first year (at the commission), I asked for help from Congress to pass a law that would increase the number of arbiters and commissioners at the NLRC."

He appealed to Lacson to support a similar bill now pending at the Senate.

Señeres said the NLRC needs at least 60 additional lawyers and nine more commissioners to deal with the average of 45,000 cases a year that the commission receives.

Each of the 100 lawyers the NLRC now has nationwide handles an average of 450 cases a year. However, a case is not resolved with just one hearing, but with an average of three, Señeres added.

He said that at present, the NLRC resolves 62 percent of the cases it handles, but with more manpower, the backlog would definitely be reduced.

As for allegations of corruption within the commission, Señeres said he has fired two labor arbiters for inefficiency and other irregularities, and a lawyer for extortion.

Cabbie slain for spitting in Caloocan

By Tina Santos and Jerome Aning

TAXI driver Wilfredo Rapanot was having a drink with fish vendor Armando Caramol, and jeepney driver Nilo Carpenter, when he suddenly coughed and spat at around 7:30 p.m. on St. Paul Extension, Tala, Caloocan City.

Rapanot, 47, got upset when the two men warned the taxi driver of spreading SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and told him not to spit again. While the three men were arguing, one of them drew a knife and repeatedly stabbed Rapanot.

Police are now looking for Caramol and Carpenter.

In Manila, carpenter Albert Buna, 40, was also stabbed and killed at around 11 p.m. Friday after his bunkmate accidentally stepped on him while he was sleeping.

Police said Buna, a native of La Union and resident of Malate, Manila, was sleeping soundly in a double-decked bed when Honorio Campos, 42, decided to go to the bathroom.

Campos, who occupied the top bunk, accidentally stepped on the victim's chest while he was going down to go, police said.

The victim yelled angrily at Campos and left the apartment to cool down.

But the suspect followed Buna outside and stabbed him in the chest.

Campos tried to escape, but he was arrested by responding barangay officials.

Fighting fires his calling, passion

By Marlet Salazar

TALES OF THE CITY

NEARING his 25th year as a volunteer firefighter, 1Lt. Wellie Eglorianin, has mastered both the "fire of science" and the passion to help others.

During his teenage years, Eglorianin joined a fire brigade in Binondo out of fascination with fire trucks and the thrill of conquering a raging fire.

"No kid is not mesmerized with firemen, fire trucks, or even just the siren," the 39-year-old volunteer said.

Chief Wellie, as he is fondly called, rose from the ranks, but not without the dangers and perils of saving lives and property.

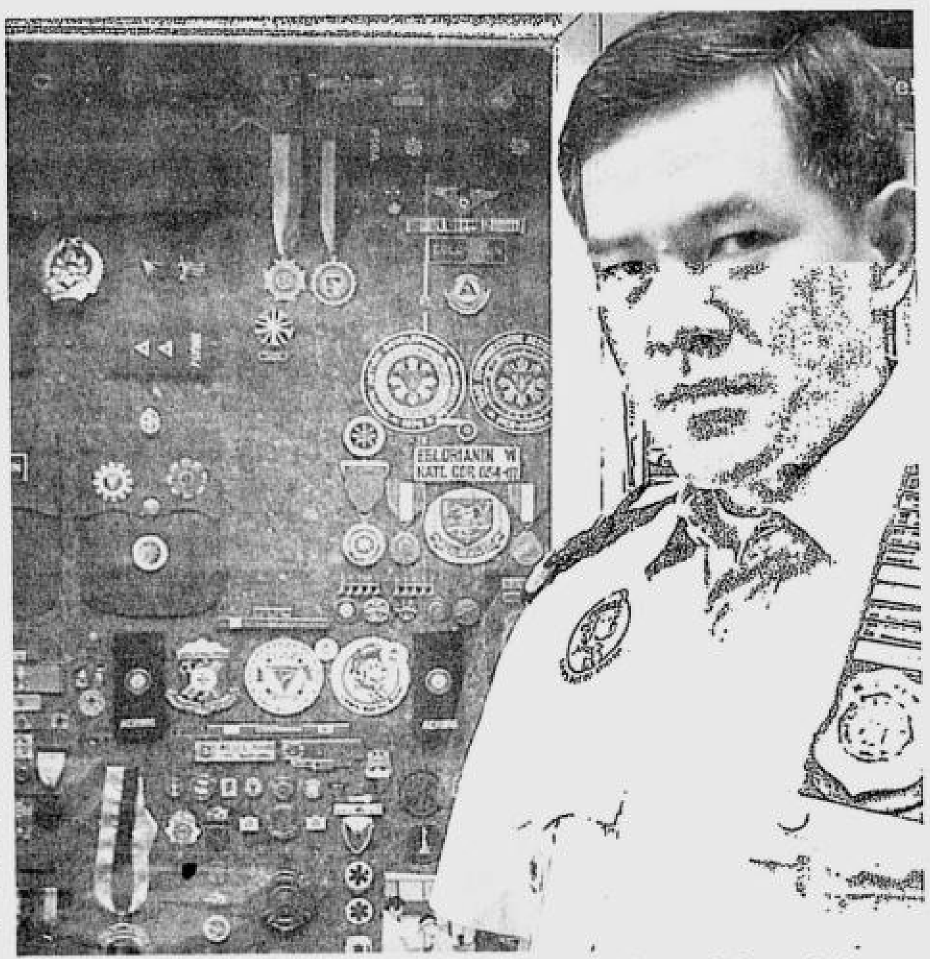
Eglorianin courted death twice in his colorful volunteer work. He was thrown five meters away when an explosion occurred during one of their operations in a Caloocan City factory. Once, he escaped death in a nick of time when an LPG tank hit the spot he was standing on when it blew off the air.

"When one becomes a fireman, half of his or her life is already at stake," Eglorianin said. "And when you go into operations, that is again sliced into half."

Like other volunteers, he went through a rigid six-month probationary training which include waking up at 5 a.m. to work out, and attending seminars after classes in the afternoon.

From radio operator to engine man and then as nozzle man, Eglorianin now serves as assistant secretary general of the Association of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigades Inc. At present, he is the fire marshal of the San Juan Eagles Fire Brigade.

Although he was one of the founding members of the Youth Fire Brigade in Binondo, he tried out in other fire brigades in Metro Manila. "It's natural instinct for us to look for other opportunities," he said.


CHIEF Wellie Eglorianin poses beside the numerous citations and plaques he has received for his volunteer services. ERIK ARAZAS

It's more than just the "thrill" of fighting fire that encourages him to continue. "It's my own way of doing my share as a citizen," Eglorianin said. This electronics engineering graduate of Mapua is of Chinese descent, but he proudly considers himself as "*Pinoy na pinoy* (truly a Filipino)." He was born in Zambales but spent most of his life in Caloocan City.

He treats his volunteering as some sort of calling. Having outgrown the fantasy of firefighting, Eglorianin realized later that firefighting is his way of pitching in as a citizen of this country. "All of us must do our share in helping the government," he said.

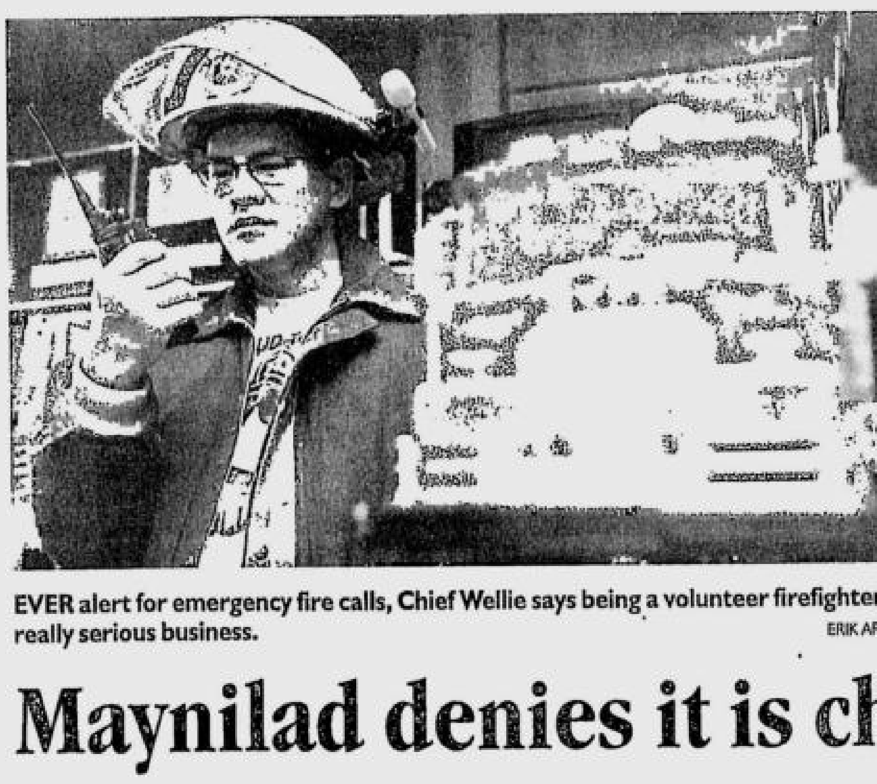
Volunteer fire brigades follow a rule called the Golden Hour. "We must respond within five to seven minutes after the call was made," Eglorianin explained. "You must control the fire within five minutes or else it would be doubly difficult to fight it."

As a volunteer for more than two decades, Eglorianin didn't get any single cent for his services. But the passion to help people and fight fires prod him to do the work enthusiastically.

He relents the fact that the number of volunteers is dwindling every year. "Maybe because kids these days have more distractions compared with that during out time."

The father of two kids ages 7 and 4 used to spend most of his time in the fire station. He called it his *tambayan*, developing friendship with his fellow firemen.

Their job goes beyond the challenge of conquering fire. They are also trained to provide emergency medical assistance anytime, anywhere. "Being a firefighter is serious business. I am not forced to do this but I'll do it as long as I can," he said.


EVER alert for emergency fire calls, Chief Wellie says being a volunteer firefighter is really serious business. ERIK ARAZAS

LATE SPORTS

San Miguel rips Sta. Lucia, 81-70

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.— Talk N' Text vs Coca Cola
6:30 p.m.—Shell vs Alaska Milk

By Dennis Eroa

BRYAN Gahol provided the highlight moment when his running shot from half court beat the buzzer as San Miguel Beer ripped Sta. Lucia Realty, 81-70, last night in the Samsung PBA All-Filipino Cup in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

Gahol's rare conversion provided a thrilling end to a game witnessed by a jampacked crowd. When he made that shot, San Miguel (7-6) was already coasting to victory as Olsen Racela split his charities, 78-70, 11 seconds left.

The Realtors dropped to 7-7.

Meanwhile, coach Joel Banal of Talk N Text is confident he can apply the winning formula when the Pals meet the gritty Coca Cola Tigers today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We're going to bring our running shoes," said Banal

He wasn't kidding, of course. The fast-stepping Tigers are the league's best in fastbreaks.

Coach Chot Reyes' wards are known to outrun their foes to score easy baskets.

These factors, of course, have not escaped Banal, who has vowed to match the Coca-Cola sprinters every inch of the way.

Under Banal, who took over from American Paul Woolpert last month, the Pals (8-5) rode high on a four-game winning streak.

More sports on A25-A31

One-stop license shop for drivers

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza on Friday announced the opening of the Land Transportation Office's one-stop licensing shop at the LTO Central Office in East Avenue, Quezon City.

The one-stop shop will allow drivers to renew their licenses without having to line up or go to LTO district offices.

Mendoza said that it usually takes three to six months for a driver to renew his license.

"With the one-stop shop, people can renew their driver's license for only 30 minutes," Mendoza said.

The LTO shop was launched in partnership with Stradcom Corp., the proponent for the LTO-Information Technology Project, and Ampi-Mega Data Corp.

Maynilad denies it is charging more for water

By Christine Gaylican

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. has flatly denied accusations that it is overcharging its customers.

"The overcharging issue raised by members of Congress and the Freedom from Debt Coalition is not only confusing, but also absurd," Maynilad president Rafael M. Alunan III said in an issued statement.

The FDC and members of the House of Representatives are claiming that Maynilad is charging an extra P8.28 per cubic meter—P4.21 as part of the Accelerated Extraordinary Price Adjustment, and an additional P4.08 for the foreign currency differential adjustment (FCDA).

Alunan said that the price adjustment and the FCDA were contained in the "amendments made to the (water) concession agreement."

The two tariff mechanisms would have allowed Maynilad to recover foreign currency exchange losses while servicing the debt which Maynilad inherited from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

"Due to factors beyond Maynilad's control, term financing was never obtained," said Alunan. "It is for this reason why (Maynilad) decided to terminate its contract with the MWSS."

Non-government organizations and civil society groups led by Bantay Tubig and the Freedom from Debt Coalition said that Maynilad has been very inefficient and its operations expenditures are very high.

Maynilad's act of terminating its contract with MWSS is only the prelude to its attempt to recover P21 billion that it claims to have spent for the expansion of water service in Metro Manila's West Zone in the past five years, Bantay Tubig vice president Jude Esguerra said.

The P21 billion is equivalent to that portion of Maynilad's past investments that had not translated into revenues and profits, Esguerra explained.

It also includes expenses that arose only because Maynilad turned out to be far less efficient than it promised.

Under its contract with the MWSS, Maynilad is entitled to the recovery of costs it failed to recoup in the past through fees.

Maynilad chose to get out of the contract because the MWSS recently recommended that Maynilad should be allowed to recover only P13 billion of its P21 billion in unrecovered costs.

forever first

To my first smile,
my first hug and first kiss.

To the one who always turns up first
in my defense.

The one who never made me feel second.
Not to my sisters, nor to your career.
Not even to Dad.

The one who comes first in my heart,
even now that you are so far away,
Happy Mother's Day!

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Sunday
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Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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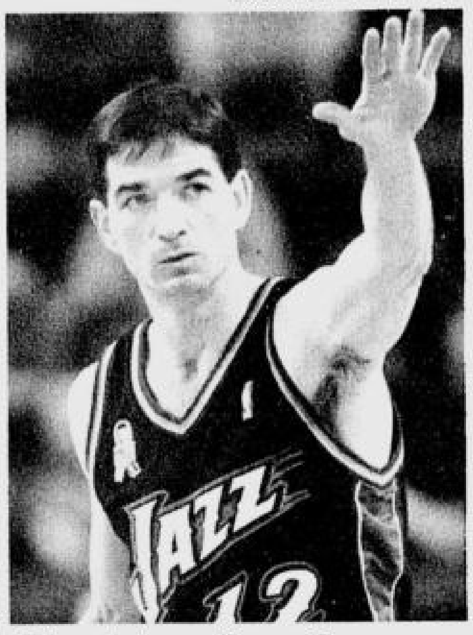

Stockton: Goodbye to all that Jazz /A29

Empire Maker is 100% for Kentucky Derby/A31

Caidic begs for a break

Embattled coach cries: They're out to destroy me

By Dennis U. Eroa

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The Kings latest misfortune came

CAIDIC/ A26

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TEAM/ A26

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Efren 'Bata' Reyes: Why there's a Hall of Fame

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But Reyes could just as easily be inducted in the Meritorious Service category, because, as Mike Panozzo wrote in the Billiards Digest: No single player in the last 20 years or even since Mosconi, for that matter, has had a bigger impact on tournament than the humble, quiet, friendly, deadly interloper from Angeles, Pampanga near Manila in the Philippines.

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Reyes first set foot on American soil, back in January 1985, at that memorable event (Red's Open 9-Ball Championship) in Houston. It was there that Reyes made the Americans realize that he's playing the game on another level.

Panozzo even went on to say that Reyes is a genius: From chess to cards to any game played with balls and cues, it quickly becomes obvious that Reyes' mind works more logically and at a faster pace than most humans.

In the Houston win, for example, Panozzo noted that Reyes didn't even know all the rules! He even entered a world-class three-cushion tournament in 1985 that featured Raymond Ceulemans and Torbjorn Blomdahl, among others. He barely missed making the finals bracket, then posted a gaudy 1.30 average in winning the consolation bracket.

The topper? He's impossible to dislike. He says so little, yet his actions say so much. He smiles mostly with his eyes, but it's an endearing smile. He never complains. Never acts cheated. He is equally gracious in victory and defeat.

He is why we have a Hall of Fame.

Ferraris take pole positions

BARCELONA, Spain - Michael Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello gave Ferrari's new car a perfect debut as they secured the front row positions on the grid here Saturday for the Spanish Grand Prix.

World champion Schumacher produced the goods with the final lap of qualifying to take pole from Barrichello on the debut of the new F2003-GA car at the Circuit de Catalunya.

The German's record at the Spanish track is impeccable with four wins and never a finish outside the points and he claimed his fourth consecutive pole position at the track with a time of 1:17.762.

Schumacher's team-mate Barrichello ensured the new machine secured a front-row lock-out in its first qualifying session when he set a time of 1:18.020 to leave the Italian giants out in front.

But the performance of the Ferrari pair wiped the smile off local boy Fernando Alonso's face, and the thousands of fans around the Circuit de Catalunya, as they both knocked him off provisional pole and down to third. Teammate Jarno Trulli was fourth followed by BAR's Jenson Button, Toyota's Olivier Panis, Williams-BMW's Ralf Schumacher and McLaren's David Coulthard. The world championship leader, Finn Kimi Raikkonen will start from the back of the grid after losing control of his car on his single flying lap and pulling into the pits without setting a time.

AFP

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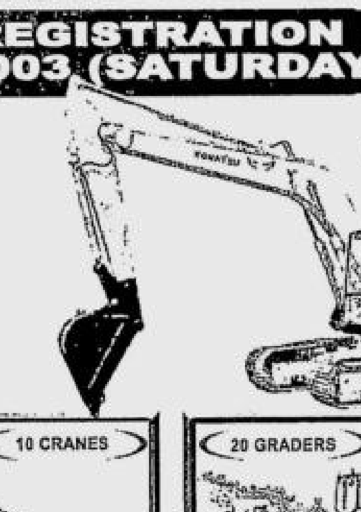

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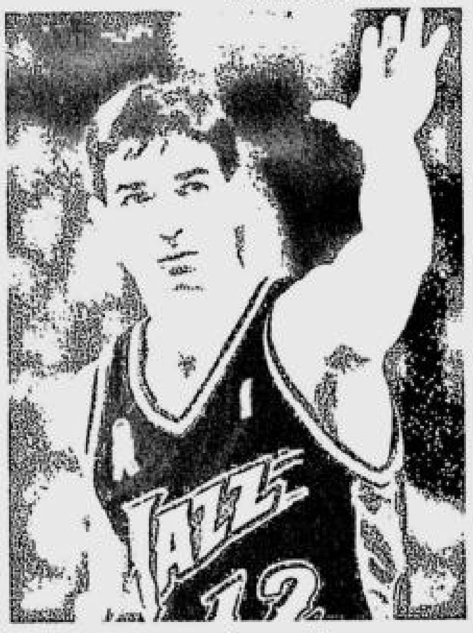

Stockton: Goodbye to all that Jazz A29

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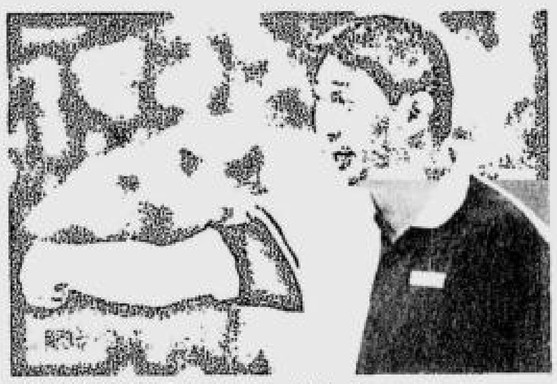

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For nearly 20 years, Reyes has played the Pied Piper to pool fans everywhere, all the while teaching his contemporaries around the world that there is still plenty to learn on the table.

Reyes first set foot on American soil, back in January 1985, at that memorable event (Red's Open 9-Ball Championship) in Houston. It was there that Reyes made the Americans realize that he's playing the game on another level.

Panozzo even went on to say that Reyes is a genius: From chess to cards to any game played with balls and cues, it quickly becomes obvious that Reyes' mind works more logically and at a faster pace than most humans.

In the Houston win, for example, Panozzo noted that Reyes didn't even know all the rules! He even entered a world-class three-cushion tournament in 1985 that featured Raymond Ceulemans and Torbjorn Blomdahl, among others. He barely missed making the finals bracket, then posted a gaudy 1.30 average in winning the consolation bracket.

The topper? He's impossible to dislike. He says so little, yet his actions say so much. He smiles mostly with his eyes, but it's an endearing smile. He never complains. Never acts cheated. He is equally gracious in victory and defeat.

He is why we have a Hall of Fame.

Ferraris take pole positions

BARCELONA, Spain - Michael Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello gave Ferrari's new car a perfect debut as they secured the front row positions on the grid here Saturday for the Spanish Grand Prix.

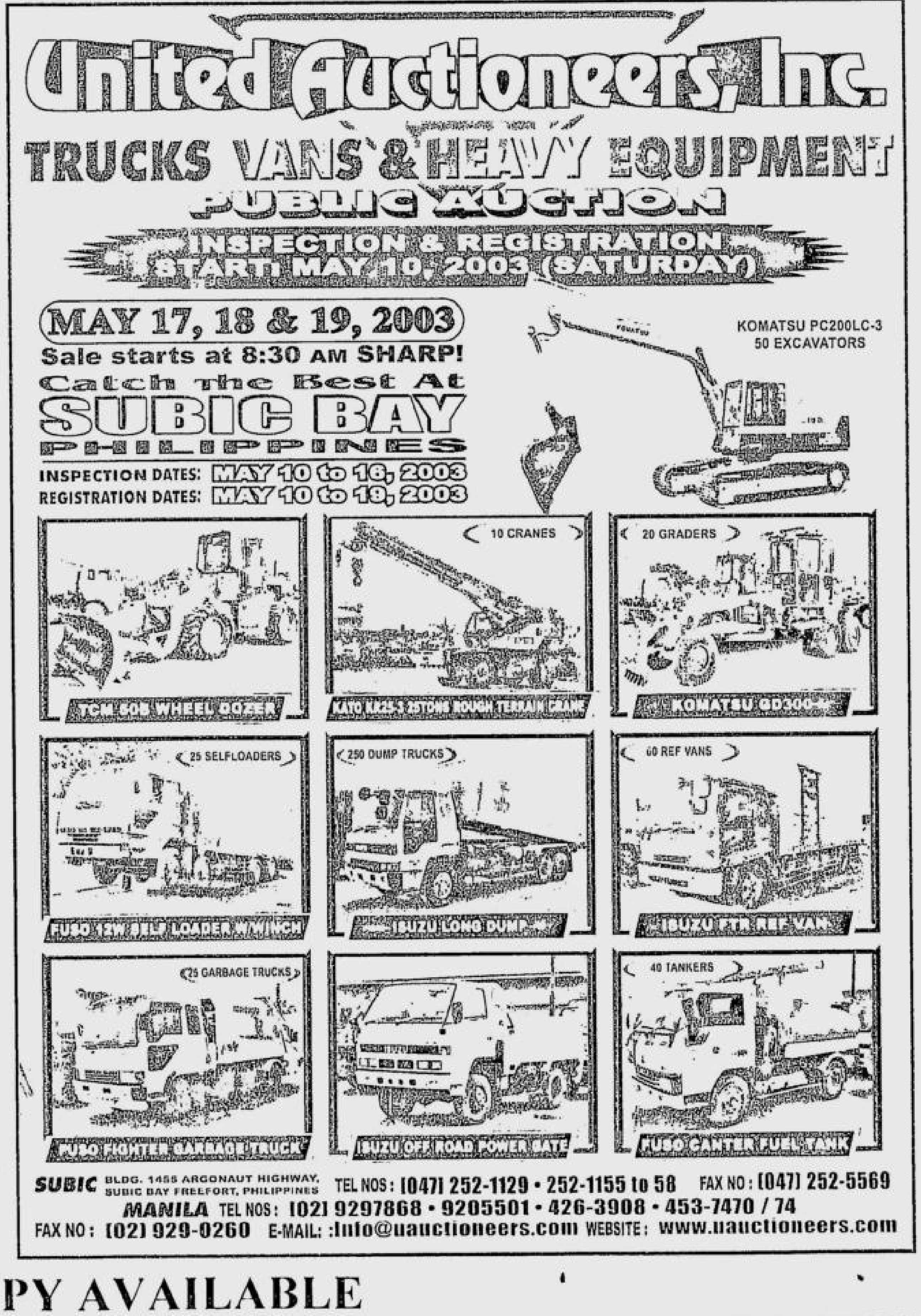
World champion Schumacher produced the goods with the final lap of qualifying to take pole from Barrichello on the debut of the new F2003-GA car at the Circuit de Catalunya.

The German's record at the Spanish track is impeccable with four wins and never a finish outside the points and he claimed his fourth consecutive pole position at the track with a time of 1:17.762.

Schumacher's team-mate Barrichello ensured the new machine secured a front-row lock-out in its first qualifying session when he set a time of 1:18.020 to leave the Italian giants out in front.

But the performance of the Ferrari pair wiped the smile off local boy Fernando Alonso's face, and the thousands of fans around the Circuit de Catalunya, as they both knocked him off provisional pole and down to third. Teammate Jarno Trulli was fourth followed by BAR's Jenson Button, Toyota's Olivier Panis, Williams-BMW's Ralf Schumacher and McLaren's David Coulthard. The world championship leader, Finn Kimi Raikkonen will start from the back of the grid after losing control of his car on his single flying lap and pulling into the pits without setting a time.

AFP



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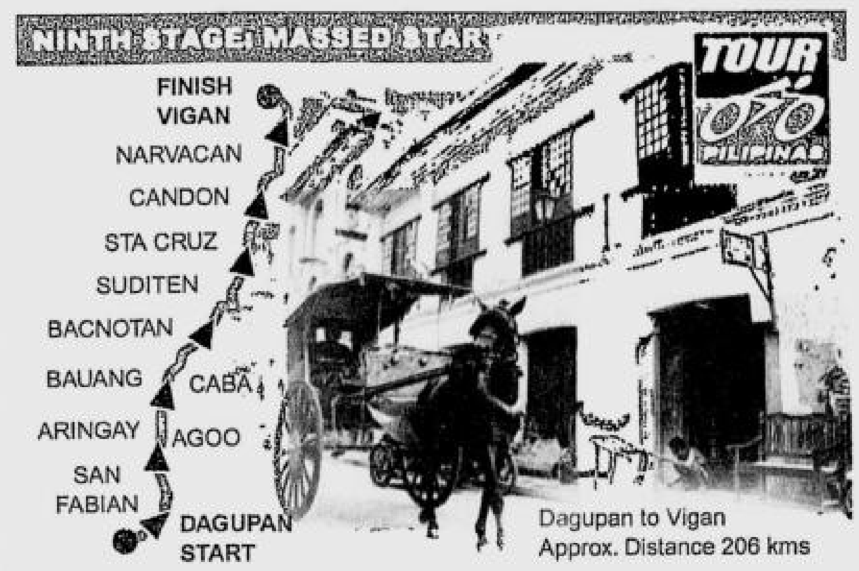
LEADER AT REST: Overall leader Merculio Ramos fixes his bike in preparation for today's longest lap of the Tour. VAL HANDUMON

Riders tackle Tour's longest lap today

By June Navarro



Dagupan to Vigan
Approx. Distance 206 kms

OLONGAPO CITY— Raring to go after a welcome break, the 83 riders of the Tour Pilipinas 2003 bikathon tackle the longest lap in the 15-stage schedule today.

An action-packed race is predicted in the eighth lap set over 247.6 km and ends in Dagupan City after Tour doctors declared all the riders fit and ready to race yesterday.

Merculio Ramos, desperately holding on to the yellow jersey of leadership since stage four, will be under tremendous pressure again.

The national rider from Batang Batang, Tarlac is ahead by two minutes and 41 seconds over the veteran and three-lap winner Arnel Quirimit, who advanced to second from fourth in the race for the P200,000 individual pot after finishing third in the seventh stage, which ended in this famous port city Friday.

"I'll try to keep the lead no matter what," said Ramos, who suffered abrasions on his arms after crashing into another rider in the sixth lap, in Tagalog.

Third overall Placido Valdez, Bernard Luzon (fourth) and Enrique Domingo (fifth) said they intend to maintain their positions barring any untoward incident in the run that features only brief uphill stretches.

Warren Davadilla, who suffered a flat tire on Friday and skidded from third to seventh overall, also vowed to recover lost ground.

Davadilla's word war with Quirimit died down yesterday but is expected to flare up when they resume their chase for top honors.

"That's how it is. Most of the time, cyclists say all sort of things after the race due to exhaustion.

But it's nothing, Warren was just frustrated over the results," said Quirimit.

After seven laps, Quirimit has earned P42,000—P30,000 for his lap victories, P3,000 for a third-place finish, P6,000 for wearing the yellow jersey twice and another P3,000 as his share in Tanduay's win in the team time trial in the second lap.

Quirimit is also way ahead in the King of the Mountain race while Domingo has lined himself up for another top Sprint finish. Both side events offer P30,000 to the winner.

Rhyan Tanguilig and Lloyd Reynante, anchors of Pagcor Sports, are sixth and eighth overall but stressed they will concentrate on the team race, especially in the final stretches of the bikathon presented by Air21 and sponsored by Mail & More, FedEx, BPI-MS, Longines, Lipovitan, Selle Italia and Look-Vittoria.

"We must go up in the standings before the Baguio stages. If we don't, we will have a hard time winning the team title," said Reynante, whose father Maui was a Tour by-word in the late '70s.

Frederick Feliciano and Renato Dolosa are ninth and 10th overall, respectively. A two-time champion, Dolosa steadily moved up in the standings from 28th overall in the first stage.

In the team race, where the champion gets P1 million, Davadilla's Intel continues to lead with an aggregate time of 93 hours, 53 minutes and 57 seconds, eight minutes and 19 seconds ahead of Patrol 117.

Tanduay holds third, followed by the Postmen, Samsung, EcoSavers, VatRiders, Pagcor Sports and Bowling Gold.

Carnival-like atmosphere back in Tour

THE TOUR Pilipinas 2003, which hopes to revive multi-stage cycling in the country, is certainly not all about the riders and the sport.

Organizers have also brought back the old carnival-like atmosphere at every lap terminal by presenting nightly shows that attract hundreds of fans and make people aware of the ongoing 15-stage cycling adventure.

Local folks have been treated to a choice of variety shows, games, movie screening and other crowd-pleasing activities since Day 1.

During the initial stage in Legazpi City, Famas best actress and sexy star Aleck Bovick electrified the crowd during a stage show with a couple of song-and-dance numbers.

Sexy dancers and other stage performers also have never failed to please the crowd during the nightly shows promoting the 18-day Tour presented by Airfreight 2100.

"The nightly shows have two objectives. One is to attract the crowd and the other is to create an awareness that the Tour is back," said Tour Pilipinas executive director Mar Mendoza.

Tour chairman Bert Lina, Tour organizer Lito Alvarez and Mendoza are on top of the year-long preparation for the Tour, which will pass through at least 200 towns and cities in Luzon.

Some of the Tour sponsors like Bowling Gold, Tanduay, Gilbeys Island Punch provide bingo games and drinking contests.

Mendoza said the nightly shows help sustain interest in the Tour, which in the past disappears after the last rider has crossed the finish line. *June Navarro*

Imelda in the land of drama and trauma

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I ADMIRE the fighting spirit of Gov. Imelda Dimaporo. This Imelda, unlike the other Imelda of an era unlamented and better forgotten than remembered, has guts that should be the envy of men. At a time when her turf is in turmoil and calls to scrap the Palarong Pambansa hound her offices day and night like ghosts, the feisty Lanao del Norte governor isn't budging one bit. Firefight or no firefight, she is set to stage the Palaro and has, in fact, approved its holding on May 18-25 in Tubod, the capital town that has been aching to host the nation's biggest Games since 1997.

You talk of women having more balls than men, you have this Imelda in the land of drama and trauma that is Mindanao.

"We are leaving no stone unturned to ensure a smooth, trouble-free staging of the Games," said the governor of a province that was the scene of a fierce firefight between government forces and Mindanao rebels just two weeks back. "It has been the province's dream to bring the Palaro here."

Dream. The word moves us to do the unusual, to think of the impossible. Obviously, the governor lives by the line of Ninoy's favorite song, "To dream the impossible dream."

Is the dream to stage the Palarong Pambansa in strife-torn Lanao del Norte an impossible dream?

Not to Gov. Imelda Dimaporo.

Not to Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Not to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya.

Not to PNP chief Dir. Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane.

Not to DepEd Sec. Edilberto de Jesus.

Not to me, too.

In fact, if we are to believe Olympic Chair Robert Aventajado, not to the MILF either. For if reports are to be believed, Aventajado had gotten the MILF's assurance that the rebel group would not touch "Palaro athletes and officials before, during and after the sportsfest."

A good enough assurance. But as to its efficacy, no one really knows as yet. A medicine's healing power will never be known until a pill/syrup has been taken, a vaccine administered.

I'm not trying to be a KJ here. I'm just voicing out fears that should, under these uncertain times, come as normal as breathing.

The Palaro can be held in Tubod, or even in Gov. Manny Pinol's Pikit in North Cotabato, why not. But at this time of the year, when there is a clear and present danger in both areas?

When the Palaro is on, Tubod can be likened to Vacante, the barrio in Pangasinan that was recently declared off-limits after two of its residents died of SARS, the contagious disease.

For two weeks, Vacante's inhabitants have been quarantined as doctors tried to contain a possible province-wide epidemic of the deadly SARS virus. Soldiers armed to the teeth guarded Vacante to prevent any resident from sneaking out. Thank God that on Friday, Vacante was declared SARS-free by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo, who proved her point by shaking hands with many Vacante residents on her way to the podium to break the happy news. While at it, she was unprotected by surgical masks.

Can Imelda the governor also do the same, announce with finality that Tubod will really be free of a terrorist attack now and during the Palaro itself?

I guess not.

Besides being too risky an option, the governor could court a flood of jeers if she did that.

Nobody's sure of anything. A terrorist is as faceless as the wind that you will never know when it is going to strike. A terrorist attack will always be "blowin' in the wind." But you can be sure of it: The only certainty in a terrorist attack is its savageness, that in its wake is only the swath of incalculable destruction. Certainly, it is this certainty that gives parents of an athlete the uncertainty of sending a child to Tubod.

Can you then blame a parent from stopping his/her child from going to Tubod?

I believe it's too soon for Tubod to host it. I know it's for certain we will never know when the MILF nor the Abu Sayyaf will banish from the face of the Earth. The military doesn't even have a timetable for that. Promises, promises. That's what they've been good at thus far. And now this promise again that they will make Tubod terrorist-free during the Palaro on May 18-25.

Ugh, enough is enough, please.

God help us but I hate to see the day hearing people say, "I told you so." It's not yet late in the day. And surely, Imelda, the one with balls, can make the difference.

Impossible dream it is not.

Caidic begs for a break

From page A25

in an 85-81 loss to FedEx on Friday at the Philsports Arena. The 6-foot-5 Adducul failed to score a single point in that loss.

Ginebra's 10th setback in 14 games moved it even closer to the bottom of the standings, a fact which has shocked observers. Ginebra, which features the trio of Eric Menk, Jun Limpot and Adducul in the middle, started with two straight wins before nose-diving in its succeeding games.

Caidic said he is doing everything to reverse Ginebra's fortunes.

"I'm not a perfect coach," said Caidic.

To regain the trust of Ginebra's growing legion of disappointed fans, Caidic admitted that the Kings must start winning again.

"As a player, I won a lot of championships. But coaching is different. I know that I must prove myself to prove my critics wrong," Caidic said.

Caidic noted that chemistry remains a problem for the Kings.

"One must understand that, with so many talented players around, chemistry is a process which can't be achieved overnight," Caidic said.

The Adducul issue, Caidic stressed, is being blown out of proportion.

"Romel is pressured to deliver. This hasn't happened yet. He must improve his post-up plays and free throw shooting. But people should see other aspects of his game," Caidic noted.

He said he recently talked with Adducul.

"Of course, we talked about his playing time. But there was no shouting as others alleged. Do you think Romel will shout at his coach?" Caidic asked.

What he could not stand is that detractors continue to shout at his back.

Team-by-team

From page A25

prompted the league to re-test the same urine sample he had submitted.

Asi Taulava of Talk N Text and Dorian Peña of San Miguel fell in an earlier testing conducted by the Games and Amusement Board when they applied for license last March. They were meted two-day suspension each for using marijuana.

Montaña, Viva dispute semis berth today

GAMES TODAY *(San Juan Gym)*
2 p.m.—Nutri-licious vs Blu Star
4 p.m.—Montaña Jewels vs Viva

MONTAÑA Jewels and Viva Mineral Water dispute the third and final automatic semifinal slot today at the end of the Sunkist-PBL Unity Cup eliminations at the San Juan Gym.

The Jewels arranged the crucial match by downing early semifinalist Hapee, 77-70, last Friday at the La Salle-Lipa Sentrum Gym.

A win by Montaña in the 4 p.m. encounter sends it into a tie with Viva, LBC and Welcoat at 5-5,but the Jewels will take the semis spot with a superior quotient.

Viva coach Koy Banal, who watched Montaña beat Hapee, expressed confidence that his charges will survive the Montaña challenge.

PBL ALL-STARS

South has edge over North

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE SOUTH All-Stars have the advantage in the wings on paper, but the North's huge frontline is feared by its foe.

South coach Leo Austria, owner of three PBL titles, and Hapee coach Junel Baculi, author of Welcoat's grand slam in the late '90s, will also renew their rivalry when the revival of the PBL All-Stars unwraps tomorrow at the Josefina Albano Sports and Cultural Complex in Cabagan, Isabela.

"This is going to be interesting," said Austria of the event also called the Rising Stars exhibition game.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad said the All-Stars, the league's first since 1998, will showcase the country's next basketball superstars.

"Fans will not be disappointed," Trinidad said.

AUSTRIA

The Isabela trip, Trinidad added, renews the PBL commitment to bolster its fans' base in the provinces.

Austria, a former PBA rookie of the year, enjoys the luxury of rotating Hapee's Peter June Simon and Wesley Gonzales, Nutri-licious Nelbert Omolon, Welcoat's Jercules Tangcay and ICTSI's Bruce Dacia in the wings.

"Certainly the team isn't lacking in firepower. But just like in past All-Stars, cohesiveness poses a problem," Austria noted.

South boasts of the league's tallest player in 6-foot-9 Samigue Eman of John O, who will alternate with 6-foot-8 Joachim Thoss of ICTSI in the middle.

Rebounding demon Rich Alvarez of Hapee, Montaña's Nur Alfad and LBC's Al Magpayo will also try to control the boards for Austria's team.

Baculi, however, is determined to put one over Austria.

Reason: Baculi hails from nearby Tuguegarao, a 40-minute drive from the game's venue, and he doesn't want to disappoint his provincemates.

The North frontline features John O's Ricky Calimag and Ranidel de Ocampo, Nutri-licious' Ervin Sotto, Viva's Mark Isip and Gerard Jones, ICTSI's Bernzon Franco and Welcoat's Jean Pingris.

Montaña's Gary David, Blu's Tristan Codamon and Hapee's Nino Gelig will man the wings.

Guards Lewis Tenorio and Froilan Baguion will battle South's Chico Lanete and Warren Ybañez.

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Hong Kong reports 12 more SARS deaths
INQUIRER
2 Abu hostages escape
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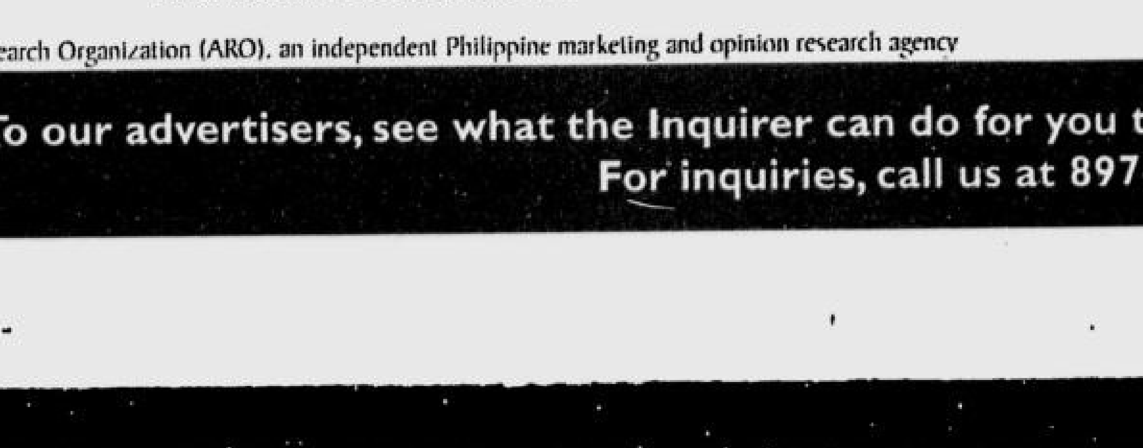

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AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

FIRST ROUND

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (8) Orlando
Magic 3, Pistons 3
Game 1: Orlando 99, Detroit 94
Game 2: Detroit 89, Orlando 77
Game 3: Orlando 89, Detroit 80
Game 4 : Orlando 100, Detroit 92
Game 5: Detroit 98, Orlando 67
Game 6: Detroit 103, Orlando 88
Game 7 at Detroit (May 5, 12:30am)

(2) New Jersey vs (7) Milwaukee
Nets 4, Bucks 2
Game 1: New Jersey 109, Milwaukee 96
Game 2: Milwaukee 88, New Jersey 85
Game 3: New Jersey 103, Milwaukee 101
Game 4 Milwaukee 119, New Jersey 114
Game 5: New Jersey 89, Milwaukee 82
Game 6: New Jersey 113, Milwaukee 101
New Jersey wins series, 4-2

(3) Indiana vs (6) Boston
Pacers 2, Celtics 4
Game 1: Boston 103, Indiana 100
Game 2: Indiana 89, Boston 77
Game 3: Boston 101, Indiana 83
Game 4: Boston 102, Indiana 92
Game 5: Indiana 93 Boston 88
Game 6: Boston 110, Indiana 90
Boston wins series, 4- 2

(4) Philadelphia vs (5) N. Orleans
Sixers 4, Hornets 2
Game 1: Philadelphia 98, New Orleans 90
Game 2: Philadelphia 90, New Orleans 85
Game 3: New Orleans 99, Philadelphia 85
Game 4: Philadelphia 96, New Orleans 87
Game 5: New Orleans 93, Philadelphia 91
Game 6: Philadelphia 107, New Orleans 103
Philadelphia wins series, 4-2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

(1) San Antonio vs (8) Phoenix
Spurs 4, Suns 2
Game 1 Phoenix 96, San Antonio 95 (OT)
Game 2: San Antonio 84, Phoenix 76
Game 3: San Antonio 99, Phoenix 86
Game 4: Phoenix 86, San Antonio 84
Game 5: San Antonio 94, Phoenix 82
Game 6: San Antonio 87, Phoenix 85
San Antonio wins series, 4-2

(2) Sacramento vs (7) Utah
Kings 4, Jazz 1
Game 1: Sacramento 96, Utah 90
Game 2: Sacramento 108, Utah 95
Game 3 Utah 107, Sacramento 104
Game 4: Sacramento 99, Utah 82
Game 5: Sacramento 111, Utah 91
Sacramento wins series, 4-1

(3) Dallas vs (6) Portland
Mavs 3, Blazers 3
Game 1: Dallas 96, Portland 86
Game 2: Dallas 103, Portland 99
Game 3: Dallas 115, Portland 103
Game 4: Portland 98, Dallas 79
Game 5: Portland 103, Dallas 99
Game 6:Portland 125, Dallas 103
Game 7 at Dallas (May 5, 3:30 am)

(4) Minnesota vs. (5) LA Lakers
Wolves 2, Lakers 4
Game 1: LA Lakers 117, Minnesota 98
Game 2: Minnesota 119, LA Lakers 91
Game 3: Minnesota 114, LA Lakers 110
Game 4: LA Lakers 102, Minnesota 97
Game 5: LA Lakers 120,Minnesota 90
Game 6: Los Angeles 101, Minnesota 85
Lakers win series, 4-2

SECOND ROUND

Eastern Conference

New Jersey vs. Boston
Nets 0, Celtics 0
Game 1 at New Jersey (May 6, 7 am)
Game 2 at New Jersey (May 8, 7 am)

Western Conference

San Antonio vs. LA Lakers
Spurs 0, Lakers 0
Game 1 at San Antonio (May 6, 9:30 am)
Game 2 at San Antonio (May 8, 9:30 am)

Back from the dead, Blazers now on verge of history

PORTLAND, Oregon—The Portland Trail Blazers trounced the Dallas Mavericks 125-103 Friday night to move one step away from making NBA history—becoming the first team to successfully come back from a 3-0 deficit in the playoffs.

The Trail Blazers scored 37 points in the second quarter and 64 in the first half, opening a huge lead that held up the rest of the way as they pounded the Dallas Mavericks to force a decisive Game 7 in their first-round series.

After dropping the first three games, the Blazers have won three straight to become just the third team in league history to force a Game 7 after losing the first three. The others were Denver against Utah in 1994 and New York against Rochester in 1951.

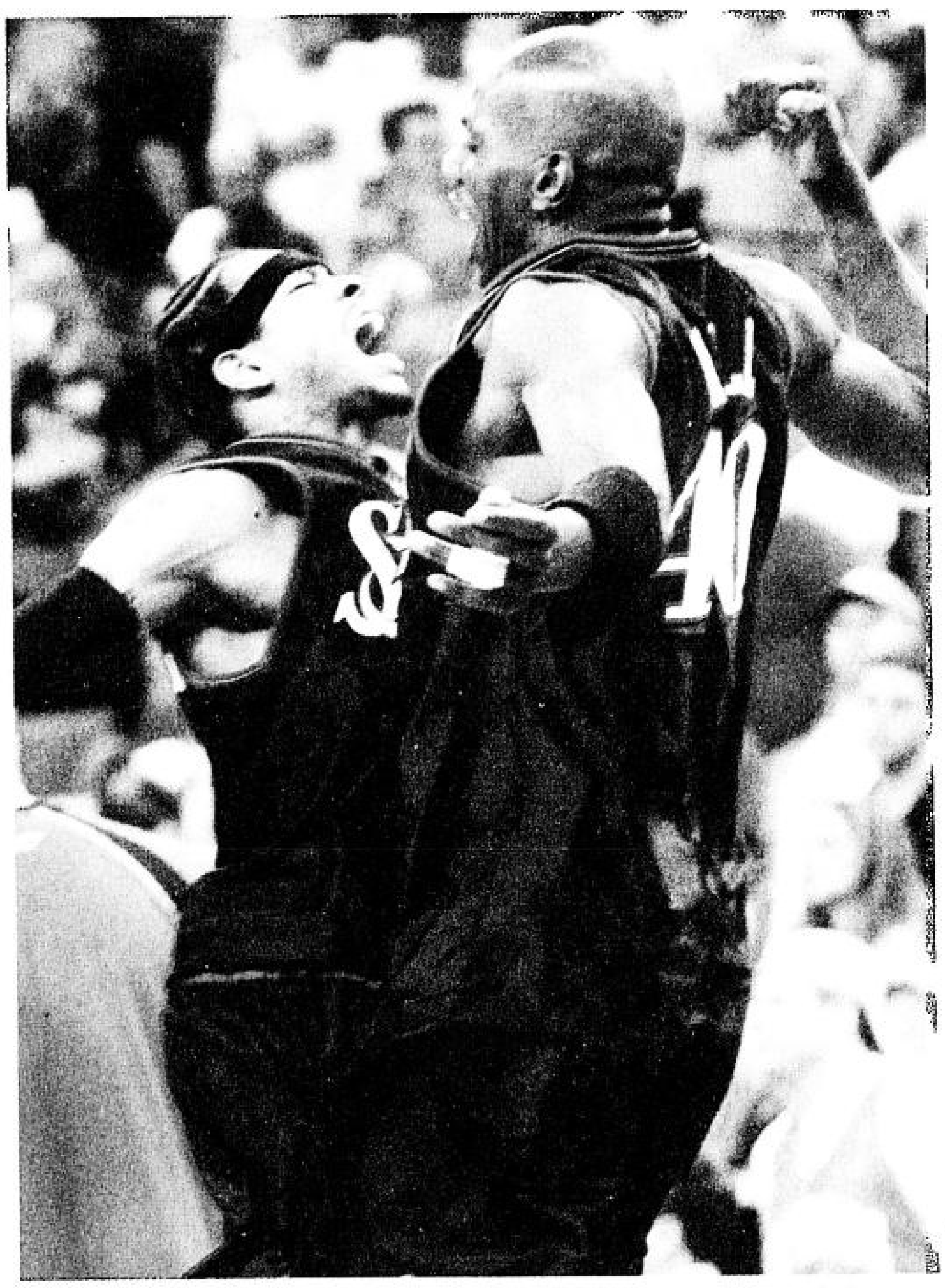
Zach Randolph had 21 points and 10 rebounds, Ruben Patterson scored 20, Bonzi Wells added 18 and Arvydas Sabonis had 16 for the Blazers, who led by as many as 32 and had six players in double figures.

Mavs guard Steve Nash, who didn't score in Game 4 and had just seven points in Game 5, had 21 points and six assists for the visibly stunned Mavericks.

Detroit 103, Orlando 88

In Orlando, Florida, Chauncey Billups scored 18 of his career-high 40 points in a decisive first quarter, and the Detroit Pistons defeated the Magic night to even their first-round playoff series and set up a Game 7 Sunday in Detroit.

Billups shot 7-of-14 on 3-pointers, including all five tries in the first period when Detroit seized a lead it would never relinquish. Billups entered the game shooting 14 percent (4-for-28) from behind the arc.



CHEST BANGING Allen Iverson and Tyrone Hill of Philadelphia celebrate in the closing seconds of the 76ers series—clinching 107-103 win over the New Orleans Hornets. REUTERS

Richard Hamilton added 22 points, and Ben Wallace had his fourth double-double of the series with 20 points and 17 rebounds while also blocking five shots.

By snapping a 12-game road playoff losing streak, the Pistons moved one win away from becoming only the seventh team in NBA playoff history to avoid elimination after falling behind 3-1.

Orlando shot 39.5 percent, missing 16 of 18 3-point attempts, and turned the ball over 17 times. Tracy McGrady had 37 points and 11 rebounds.

76ers 107, Hornets 103

In New Orleans, Allen Iverson capped a 45-point performance by scoring Philadelphia's final six points—including a key straightaway bank shot with 10 seconds left—as the 76ers eliminated the Hornets.

Several other Sixers had solid games — Keith Van Horn with 18 points and 18 rebounds, Derrick Colem
and Kenny Thomas with 1

Jamal Mashburn, pla
game with a chipped bone
dle finger, scored 36 to le
which was hurt by 14-
shooting, missing five of
period.

Iverson had 15 point
quarter for the 76ers, w
play the winner of the Orl
ries.

Greek, Polish clubs in Euro cage title

THESSALONIKI—Aris Salonika of Greece will face Poland's Prokrom Trefl in Sunday's Champions Cup basketball final after the pair won their semi-finals on Friday.

Aris capitalized on home court advantage to beat Serbia and Montenegro side Hemofarm Vrsac 73-66, while Prokrom overpowered Latvia's BC Ventspils 79-57.

The Greeks overcame a tightly organized Serb defense featuring teenage NBA draft prospect Darko Milicic (11 points) despite a poor showing from their point guard Willie Solomon (9).

The former Memphis Grizzlies player misfired all evening but fellow American Ryan Stack (19) put in a towering performance under the boards.

Hemofarm threatened to break away in the second quarter, establishing a 12-point lead with Milicic dominant under both baskets and Michael Campbell landing a series of three-pointers.

But Aris guard Yiannis Gagaloudis came off the bench to drag his team back into the match.

First, he landed a long-range treble, then stole the ball for a fast-break and a two-point score that earned a crucial foul to put them within four points.

After the interval Aris tightened up their defense and Gagaloudis and Prodromos Nikolaidis kept up the scoring to pull them in front for the first time.

By the final quarter when Milicic fouled out, Aris were in charge and on their way to their first European final since 1997.

In the earlier semi-final, Prokrom powered to an easy win over Ventspils, opening a 12-point lead at halftime that they had doubled comfortably by the finish.

Forward Goran Jagodnik was outstanding for the Polish champions, top scoring with 19 points.

The Latvians had no answer to his strength under the boards where American center Jospeh McNaull weighed in with 17 points.

Ventspils' Arnis Vecvagars (13) led a mini-fightback earlier in the final quarter, but Prokrom replied with a 16-point burst to send them into their first European final. *Reuters*

SportsTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: Spanish Grand Prix; 7 p.m.; Star Sports—Kimi Raikkonen looks to extend his lead over the field, but Michael Schumacher and Ferrari hope to win their second straight race and cut the deficit.

TENNIS: ATP Open Seat Godo 2003 Final; 12:30 p.m. (r); Star Sports—The world's top clay court specialists battle it out in Barcelona for a share of the $1.08-million total prize.

GOLF: HP Classic of New Orleans, Third Round; 4 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Golf action continues in the Big Easy.

SOCCER: Manchester United vs Charlton Athletic (r), 9 a.m., Arsenal vs Leeds United, 11 p.m., ESPN—Red hot Man U and struggling Arsenal take on separate rivals as the race for the Premiership heats up.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

It's back to basics for winless A

LONDON—Anna Kournikova's radical 'back-to-basics' plan will at long last get underway at Sea Island in Georgia on Monday.

The Russian pin-up will get a taste of the lower echelons of the sport for the first time in seven years when she steps on court to rebuild her shattered confidence at the $25,000 ITF Women's Circuit Tournament.

"As of today, Kournikova's still in the draw and will be playing at Sea Island on Monday," an ITF spokesperson said on Friday.

Realizing the need to arrest her spectacular fall from grace, Kournikova turned down a wildcard from the more lucrative $1.26 million German Open—which also takes place next week—to compete at the low-key ITF event.

Kournikova last played competitively at the Family Circle Cup in Charleston, South Carolina, three weeks ago when she was forced to retire from her second-round match with a thigh strain.

The 21-year-old had intended to begin her long road back to form at another ITF event in Dothan, Alabama last month but the injury put her plans on hold for two weeks.

The US-based Russian decided
her skills on the lower levels of pr
al tennis following four first-roun
in the five WTA tournaments
played this year.

Without a WTA title after spend
than seven years on the tour, Kour
off-court exploits have far oversh
her tennis career.

Having reached the Wimbledon

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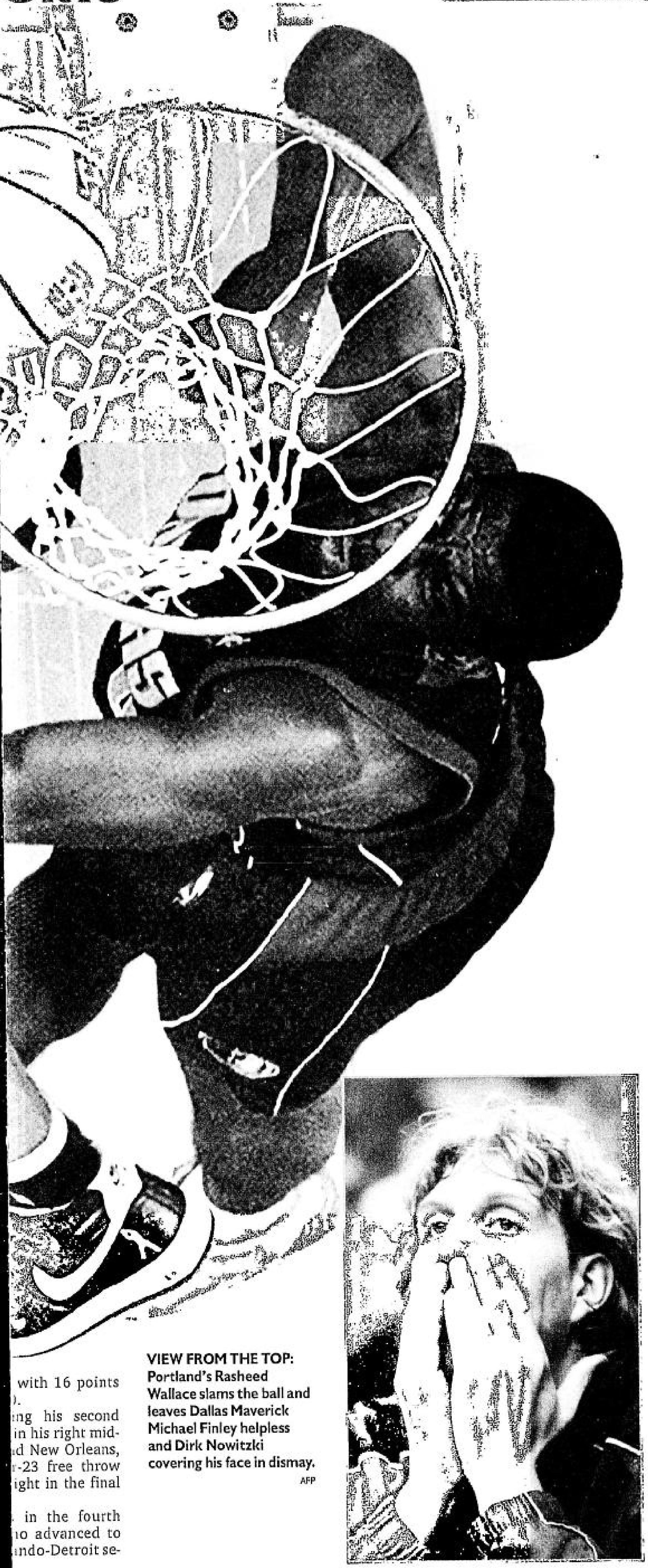


with 16 points
).
ng his second
in his right mid-
d New Orleans,
-23 free throw
ight in the final

in the fourth
o advanced to
ndo-Detroit se-

VIEW FROM THE TOP: Portland's Rasheed Wallace slams the ball and leaves Dallas Maverick Michael Finley helpless and Dirk Nowitzki covering his face in dismay.
AFP

Goodbye to all that Jazz: John Stockton retires

SALT LAKE CITY—Utah's John Stockton, one of the greatest players in the history of professional basketball announced his retirement on Friday, two days after the Jazz were eliminated from the playoffs.

"I think I'm finished," Stockton said in the Jazz locker room after telling owner Larry Miller and coach Jerry Sloan of his decision to retire.

"I informed those guys and that's the direction I'm headed.

I just said, 'I think it's time to move on,'" he added.

Stockton had been a National Basketball Association fixture since he entered the league 19 years ago and was named as one of the NBA's 50 greatest players.

He finished his career with the most assists and steals in NBA history at 15,806 and 3,265 respectively, also shooting .515 from the field which was fourth best by a guard.

The 41-year-old did admit that several factors led to his decision to call it a day.

"There are a lot of them, as I mentioned before. There is always family, how you are playing, how the team is doing.

"There are so many things that fit into it and I don't think that you can accurately describe which one has the most impact.

"All in all I think it is clear that this is the time for me," he said.

Stockton leaves with a long, impressive resumé that includes 10 All-Star berths and a pair of Olympic medals.

It is a bit incomplete as it is missing a championship, although not for lack of effort.

Although Stockton had contemplated retirement after each of the last two seasons, the announcement still saddened the Utah owner.

"It's not a day I looked forward to, now we get to find out what we're made of," Miller said as he fought back tears.

Stockton and team mate Karl Malone were an impressive duo on the basketball court.

The Stockton-to-Malone combination was one of the most feared and effective scoring duos in basketball history.

The two are also very close friends.

For several years Stockton defied critics who claimed the game had passed him by and he was no longer a factor.

However, those who played with him and against him were always respectful.

Sacramento Kings center Chris Webber said he would be honored to tell his grandchildren one day that he played against Stockton in his last games in the NBA.

The Jazz were eliminated by the Kings in the first round of this season's playoffs on Wednesday night.

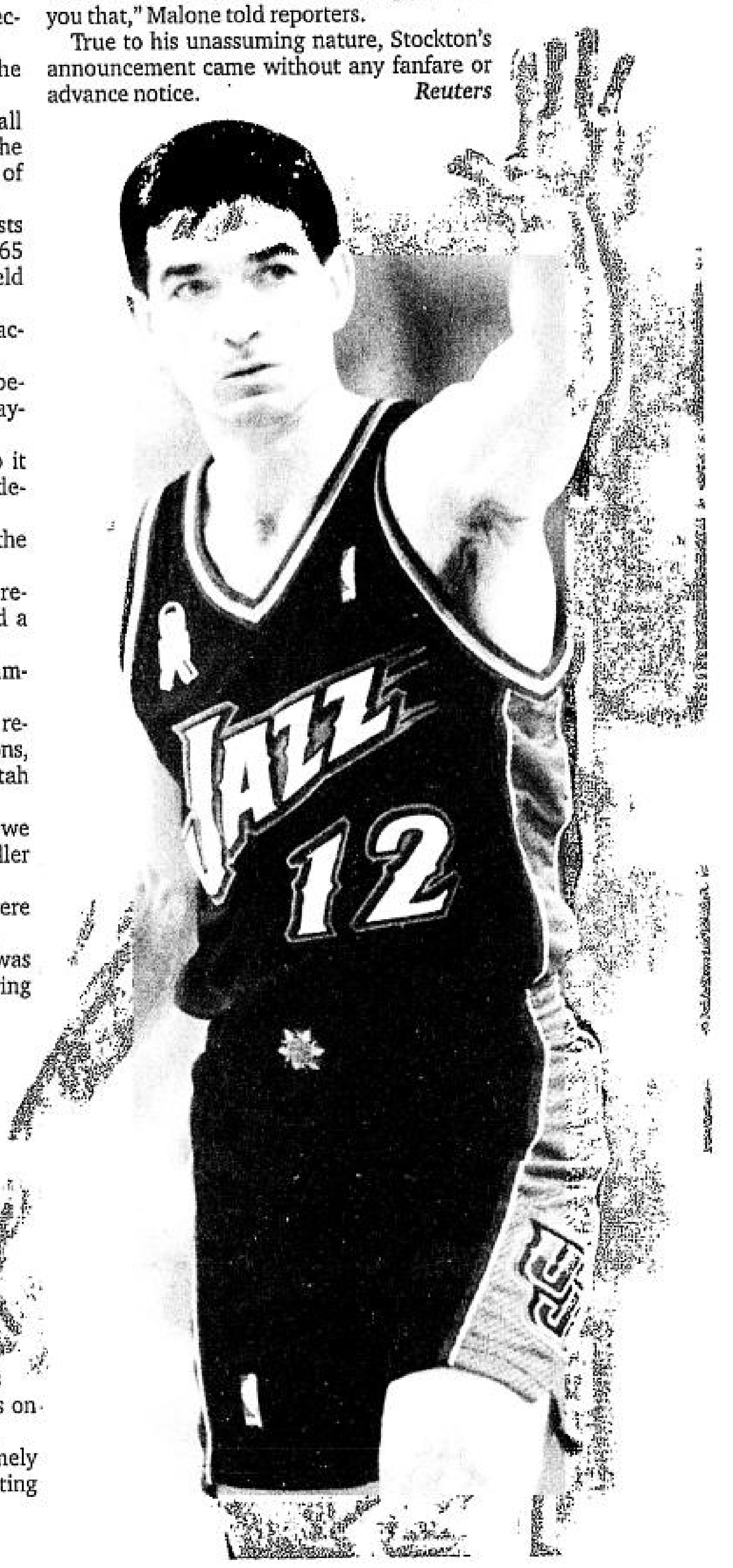
The unassuming point guard routinely shunned the spotlight in favor of crediting coaches and team mates for the Utah Jazz success in the past two decades.

Malone, who benefited more than anyone else from Stockton's pinpoint passes, combined with the point guard for two trips to the NBA Finals in 1997 and 1998.

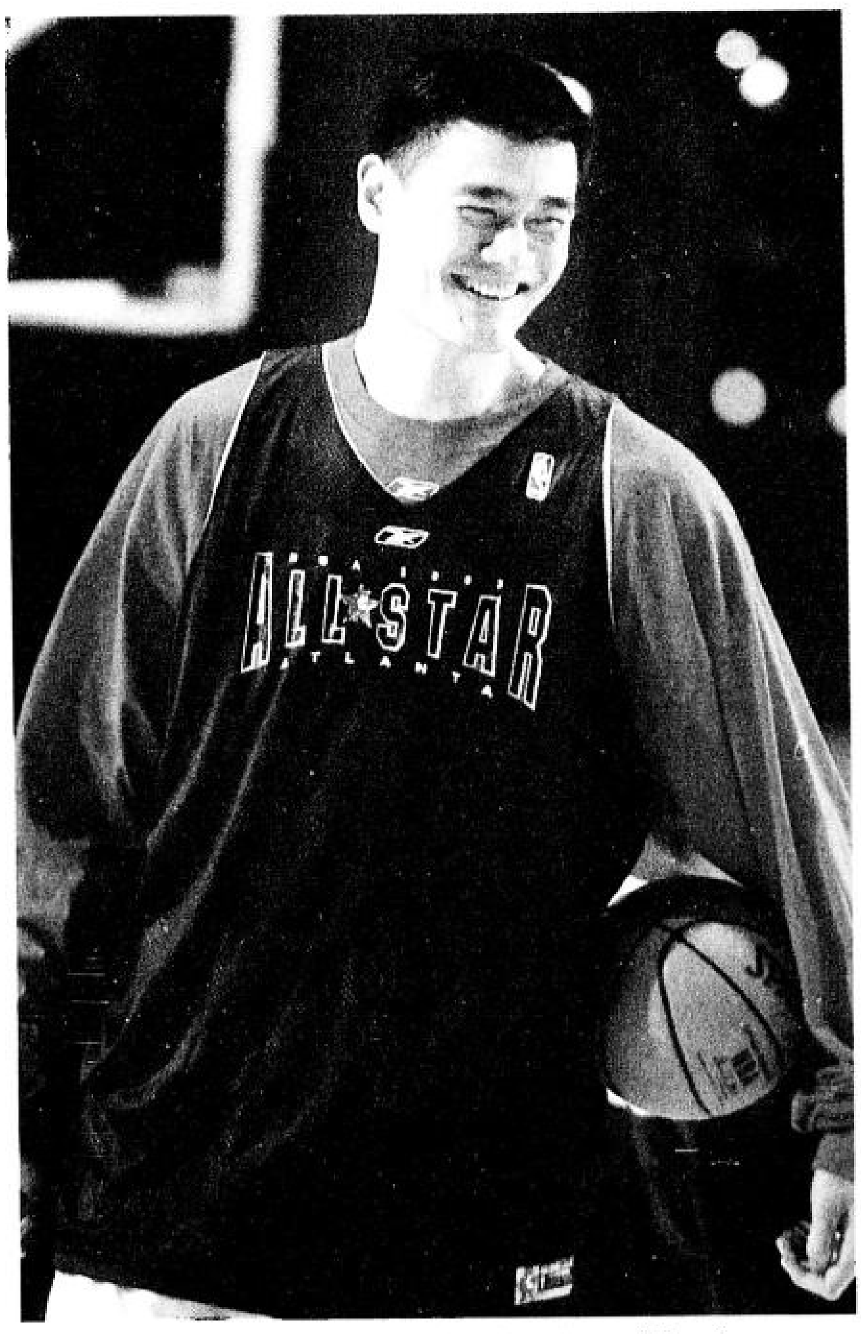
"It's a shock to everybody. I can't put it into words. I don't know. It's a tough situation. There will not be another one. I guarantee you that," Malone told reporters.

True to his unassuming nature, Stockton's announcement came without any fanfare or advance notice. *Reuters*

STOCKTON: "I'm finished."
REUTERS



Tug-of-war on for shoe contract of Yao Ming



SHOE-IN: Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets is a prize catch for a shoe contract, mainly because of the billion-strong Chinese market.

NEW YORK—Athletics footwear manufacturers are debating the shoe-selling potential of Yao Ming, the 7-foot-5 Chinese center whose National Basketball Association success has already brought big endorsement deals.

Yao's four-year endorsement contract for 200,000 dollars with Nike is expiring and rivals Adidas and Reebok are pondering offers to the Houston Rockets giant as well as locking up other NBA talents.

Yao's agents, who have already brought deals with computers and credit card firms, seek a piece of the 3.25 billion-dollar basketball shoe spending done in US markets, more than 20 percent of total US athletic footwear spending.

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant and high school star LeBron James, expected to be the first choice in next month's NBA Draft, are rivals to Yao who might have a better chance at riches for boosting US sales.

But Yao is a beloved superstar in China and 1.3 billion consumers are quite a large market, especially with Beijing hosting the 2008 Summer Olympics.

"That's where his true value lies—so many companies want to penetrate the Chinese market," sports marketing analyst Bob Williams told USA Today.

"Yao has not demonstrated an ability to move product, so companies will have to look at his potential and take a chance." Nike has a contract clause allowing it to match any deal, but the company that signs Bryant or James will be less likely to spend money on Yao as well. *AFP*

Czech netter faces 2-year ban for doping

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida—Czech tennis player Bohdan Ulihrach awaits a heavy punishment for testing positive for the steroid nandrolone, the ATP announced on Friday.

Ulihrach will receive a two-year suspension retroactive to Oct. 26, a fine of $43,770 and a forfeiture of 100 ranking points after an independent Tennis Anti-Doping Program tribunal determined that his urine sample taken at the Moscow tournament on Oct. 3 tested positive for metabolites of nandrolone, a Class 1 banned substance.

At Ulihrach's request, the three-member tribunal was appointed to review the evidence surrounding his positive test. The trio convened April 23 in Jacksonville, Florida and concluded that Ulihrach had committed a doping offence.

The 28-year-old Ulihrach, who has earned more than $3 million in career prize money, chose a voluntary suspension once notified of the positive test.

His suspension will end Oct. 25, 2004—two years to the day following his last match played on the circuit. *AFP*

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nals in 1997 as a precocious 16-year-old talent, the Russian has since failed to deliver the goods on court.

Her world ranking, and confidence, have been on the slide since she reached a career-high eighth in May 2001.

Now ranked a lowly 67th, Kournikova is no longer considered a serious title contender on the WTA tour but remains the most photographed woman in sport.

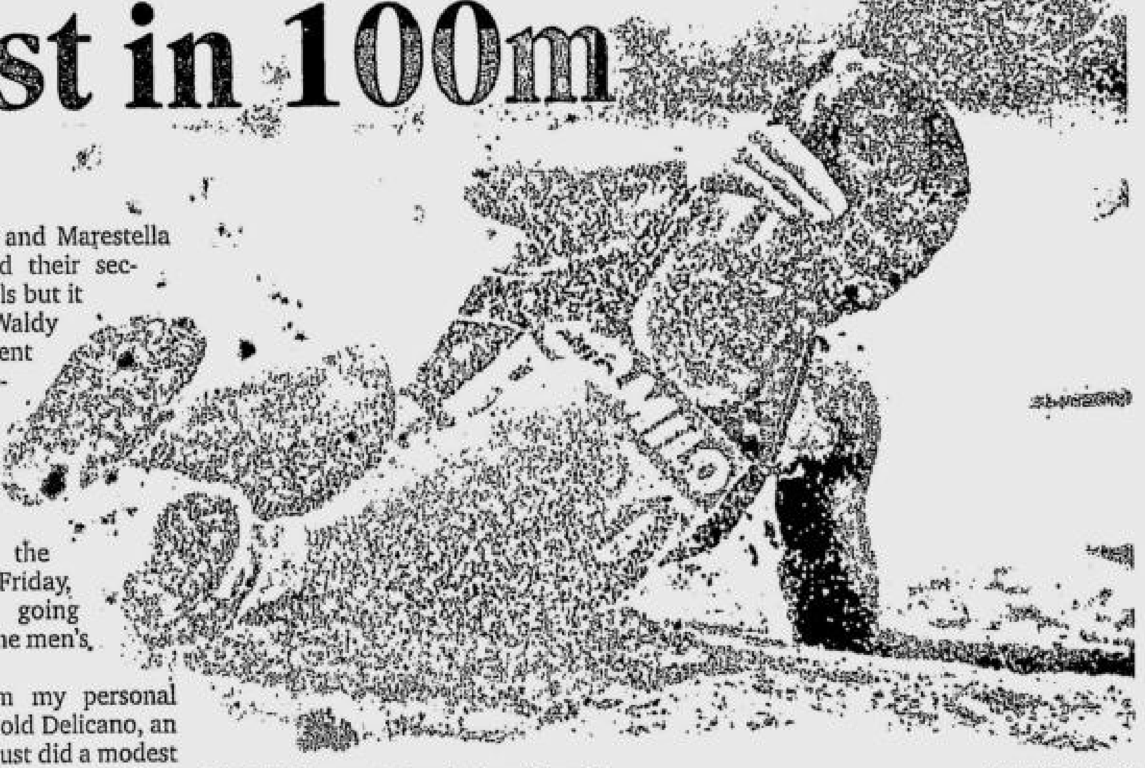
In just over a week, she will therefore be hoping to add a third Women's Circuit title to her name.

So far her trophy cabinet only holds the $50,000 Midland, Texas crown and the $25,000 Rockford, Illinois title, both won seven years ago when she last played at this level.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

2 RP jumpers bag 2nd golds; Soguilon fastest in 100m

SOGUILON (934) sprints to the gold in the men's 100 meters. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



TORRES jumps to her 2nd gold medal. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JOEBERT Delicano and Marestella Torres captured their second gold medals but it was sprinter Waldy Soguilon who sent the crowd roaring by topping the men's century dash yesterday in the Milo national open track and field championships.

Delicano, who won the men's long jump last Friday, cleared 15.06 meters going against the wind to rule the men's triple jump.

"It was still far from my personal record," said the 23-year-old Delicano, an Airman first class. "But I just did a modest effort which was according to my training plan."

Later in the afternoon, Torres established a new personal record in the women's triple jump with 12.47m to add up to her earlier gold in the women's long jump.

Torres, raring to be part of the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam in December, practically competed with just herself as her counterparts failed to reach beyond 11 meters.

"I just tried to jump as far as I could without straining my back too much," said Torres, who won the long jump yesterday over veteran Lerma Bulauitan.

The double gold feat was first achieved by thrower Arneil Ferrera late Friday when he captured the hammer throw gold on top of his discus throw title.

Ferrera heaved the discus to 44.44m before claiming the hammer throw gold with a 51.17m effort.

On a day when Thai sprinters threatened to dominate the century dashes, Soguilon came to the country's rescue by ruling the men's 100m with a time of 10.81 seconds.

The 21-year-old Soguilon, running under the banner of La Salle Dasmariñas-TMS Ship, won the centerpiece race by a hair over a handful of determined Thai runners.

"I can feel them breathing behind me," said Soguilon, the lanky 5-foot-10 sprinter who is the defending champion here and in the Palarong Pambansa.

Thai Sangwan Jaksunel won the women's 100m (12.44 seconds), while compatriots Pirom U-tasm ruled the boys' division (11.06) and Umpraporm Songka the girls side (12.57).

Mary Grace Melgar tried her hand at the 400m run for the first time and still ended up the runaway winner with a time of 57.62 secs.

The 21-year-old University of the East masteral student was only set to compete in the hurdles event but her coach Jojo Posadas also coaxed her to compete in the 400.

Other winners in the four-day event supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Milo Sport were Roselyn Hamero of the Air Force in the women's discus throw and Sean Guevarra also of the PAF in the men's high jump.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

One-hitter is Tampa Bay's 1st

DETROIT—Joe Kennedy pitched the first one-hitter in the six-year history of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, beating the punchless Detroit Tigers, 2-0, Friday night.

The Tigers dropped to 3-24 with their fifth straight loss. They have been shut out a major league-leading seven times—Philadelphia is next with four—and have scored only 61 runs in 27 games.

Six teams — the Yankees, Red Sox, Blue Jays, Rockies, Cardinals and Cubs — have more runs this season than Detroit has hits (159).

Marlon Anderson hit an RBI single in the eighth inning for the Devil Rays, who snapped a four-game losing skid. Travis Lee doubled and scored on Toby Hall's sacrifice fly in the ninth.

Kennedy (2-2) allowed only a first-inning single to Andres Torres, walked one and struck out six. He faced just 29 batters— two more than the minimum— in his second career shutout.

Gary Knotts (0-3) lost despite allowing only one run on five hits and two walks in 7 2-3 innings.

In Chicago, Mike Cameron, playing on the first anniversary of his four-homer game in Chicago, went 3-for-3 with a home run and three runs scored to lead Seattle over the White Sox.

Cameron also walked twice for Seattle, which had a season-high 16 hits. Bret Boone went 3-for-5 and Edgar Martinez got two hits to reach 2,000 for his career.

Ryan Franklin (2-2) gave up just five hits in eight innings.

Esteban Loaiza (5-1) lost for the first time in seven starts since Tampa Bay beat him last Sept. 20, allowing five runs and nine hits in 3 2-3 innings. He forced in a pair of runs with bases-loaded walks.

Chicago has lost eight of its last 12 games and dropped to 15-14.

THANK GOD: Atlanta Braves batter Rafael Furcal points skyward as he crosses homeplate after hitting a solo home run against Arizona. AP

Jenny in the hunt

By Jong Arcano

JENNY'S in a battle.

Jenny Rosales kept the fire of her breakthrough bid burning by scoring a second straight two-under-par 69 on Friday to move up to joint seventh place with Swede star Annika Sorenstam, Korean ace Se Ri Pak and two others after the second round of the $1.6 million Michelob Light at Kingsmill in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Rosales, who has yet to win in four seasons on the LPGA Tour, again needed a big charge in her last four holes where she picked up two of her five birdies for the day to complete 36 holes at 138 like Pak, Sorenstam, Mi Hyun Kim and Karen Stupples.

The five are only three strokes off the lead.

Even par through 15 holes, Rosales birdied her 16th and 17th holes back-to-back to keep herself in the running.

Jenny came very close to a dream pairing with Sorenstam, who will join the Colonial leg of the PGA Tour later this month. Organizers decided to pair Sorenstam and Pak instead who will play behind the twosome of Rosales and pint-sized Kim, the 1999 Rookie of the Year.

Another Korean, Grace Park, shared the lead with Mexican rookie Lorena Ochoa. Park fired a 68 and Ochoa had a 69 to be at 135, one ahead of Suzanne Pettersen and Akiko Fukushima.

Rosales, who is 28th in the money list with earnings of $71,025, lost her consistency off the tee as conditions, especially on the par-5s, became tougher even for the long-hitters. She hit only 10 fairways compared to Thursday's 13.

But a sharper short game saved her a lot of precious strokes and left here with just three bogeys, two of which hit her on the first three holes. She made just 28 putts and had two sand saves.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin also clawed back into contention, five strokes behind the leaders, with a round of 68 pushing her 11 steps to joint 17th from 38th the previous day. She birdied her first three holes, made her fourth on the 12th before stumbling with her lone bogey on the 17th.

Meanwhile in Seoul, Korea, Gerald Rosales shot a 71 to jump to 28th place in the $400,000 Maekyung Open at the Nam Seoul Country Club.

Gerald's 138 total counting his 72 in the opening round put him at 143, just five behind new leader Chung Joon who fired a 68-138.

Tiger on the prowl again

ORLANDO, Florida—World number one Tiger Woods has gotten over the disappointment of losing the Masters and has picked up his clubs once again to begin preparing for next month's US Open.

"When I come back I'll be rejuvenated," Woods told the New York Times.

"I put the clubs away for a while. I've been doing a few things and a little bit of nothing, just hanging out. But practice starts (Friday) and when I get back I'll really be excited to be there." During his post-Masters break, Woods filmed a car commercial but has not practiced, taking nearly a month away from the game he has dominated.

Woods, who already has three titles in 2003, plans to return to competition in Germany on May 15-18 with an eye toward the year's next major June 12-15 at Olympia Fields Country Club in suburban Chicago.

Woods ranks third on the US PGA Tour money list. Davis Love leads the way with 3.68 million dollars and Masters winner Mike Weir of Canada is second at 3.28 million with Woods third at 3.06 million dollars.

Woods finished in a share of 15th at Augusta National Golf Club, where he was going for an unprecedented third consecutive title.

There was controversy at the Masters over the club's not having a woman member and club chairman William "Hootie" Johnson repeated last week that there is no plan to admit a woman anytime soon.

Woods, who became the first black man to win a major by taking the title at Augusta in 1997, repeated his support for the idea of a woman member at Augusta but also admitted the task of waiting for change at Augusta was a long one.

"They do things at their own pace. They always have," Woods said. "That's not going to change."

AFP

5-run 1st powers Cardinals

ST. LOUIS—Jim Edmonds homered in a five-run first inning to back Simontacchi as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Montreal Expos 8-1 Friday night.

Fernando Vina homered and went 3-for-3 for the Cardinals, who extended their winning streak to a season-best five games. Mike Matheny also homered and drove in three runs, and Edmonds had three hits.

Jason Simontacchi (1-1) won for the first time in five starts this season, allowing one run and six hits in eight innings. Tomo Ohka (2-4) gave up five runs on six hits in two-third of an inning, the second-shortest outing of his career. Cubs 7, Rockies 4

In Chicago, Mark Bellhorn broke out of a slump, going 2-for-2 with three RBIs, and Sammy Sosa, Ramon Martinez and Shawn Estes also drove in runs for the Cubs.

Shawn Estes (2-3) won for the first time since April 15, allowing four runs — three earned — and 10 hits in 7 1-3 innings. Joe Borowski got four outs for his fifth save.

Shawn Chacon (4-1) gave up six runs and eight hits in five innings, his shortest outing this year. Mets 9, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Tom Glavine (4-2) gave up three runs and eight hits in seven innings as New York got 15 hits and stopped a five-game losing streak. Milwaukee has lost six straight and nine of 10.

Golfer's dream for Verplank

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana—Scott Verplank established a 36-hole tournament scoring record Friday, shooting a bogey-free 9-under-par 63 for a three-shot lead over Brian Gay and Todd Barranger midway through the five million dollar PGA HP Classic.

It was the kind of day golfer's dream about–sunny skies, little wind and perfect greens.

The 38-year-old American took advantage, breaking the event's old 36-hole scoring mark by three strokes with a 16-under 128.

"This is as good a weather as you can have out here," he said. "I've played a lot of times where the wind was blowing a lot harder and the greens were firmer and the golf course was playing a lot more difficult." Verplank has been coming to New Orleans for 22 years. Not because he plays so well at this event. He has friends in the area.

AFP

SPORTSWATCH

San Beda trips Ateneo

SAN Beda College-A beat Ateneo, 86-70, yesterday to stay within sight of the leaders in the 3rd Ambrosio Padilla Cup senior division at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The Red Lions drew 16 points from Jerome Paterno, the 2002 Rookie of the Year, in posting their fourth win against one loss in Group B. The 6-foot-5 Paterno was supported by Mark Apepe with 12 points and Ronnie Bughao with 11. The Blue Eagles dropped to 1-3 despite the presence of four former San Beda Red Cubs in their roster. The event, being held in honor of the Basketball Association of the Philippines' founding president, is being supported by Cebuana Lhuillier, Healthy Options, Molten, Accel and Burlington socks.

4 football tournaments

FOUR football tournaments in Metro Manila get a boost following the signing of a sponsorship agreement with the National Capital Region Football Association and Samsung Philippines. The four events are the Samsung-United Football League for Metro Manila-based men's clubs, the NCRFA Under-14 and Under-16 Open competition for boys and the NCRFA Ladies Open. NCRFA president Santiago Elizalde said each of these events will be held over a nine-week period. The Samsung-UFL men's club tourney has just started, while the three others are scheduled to unfold late this month. The country's top teams and players are expected to compete in these tournaments because the Philippine Football federation will be on the lookout for new talents who may be tapped for future international events. "Unbelievably, we have never had an opportunity (in the NCRFA) to host or organize such events as these which encourage anybody or any organization, whether school of NCRFA club member, to enter the strongest team possible to play against the best," said Elizalde.

Joshua cops 12-under title

JOSHUA Tan Ho lived up to his top billing yesterday, beating No. 7 Bernardine Siso, 6-2, 6-2, to capture the boys' 12-under title in the Toby's-Philta National Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. In the boys' 18-under division, No. 1 Irwin de Guzman defeated No. 6 Ed Angelo Diez, 6-2, 6-1, to advance in the final against No. 2 Yannick Guba, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over No. 4 Kyle Dandan. The seeding also went true to form in the boys' 14-under category as No. 1 Ralph Barte outlasted No. 4 Pablo Olivarez, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, to advance in the final against No. 2 Rusell Arcilla Jr., a 6-2, 7-5 winner over No. 3 Daniel Macalino. Girls' 18-under top seed Bien Zoleta outclassed No. 3 Ivy de Castro, 6-1, 6-3, to advance in the final against No. 5 Alyssa Labay, a 6-4, 6-2 winner over No. 7 Michelle Panis. Bien also barged into the 16-under final, rallying past No. 3 Catherine Flores, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, to advance against younger sister Bambi Zoleta, who struggled past No. 2 Ivy de Castro, 6-0, 3-6, 6-4.

Belle Cup May 9-10

ERMITA

THE BELLE Cup amateur golf team championship will be held May 9-10 at the Tagaytay Highlands and Tagaytay Midlands courses with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and Presidential Adviser Eduardo Ermita invited to grace the tee-off ceremonies. Also invited for the three-in-one tournament was PSC commissioner Ambrosio de Luna. The Belle Cup features members of the Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club Inc. and Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club and their spouses, dependents or guests. Two Northwest Airlines world business class ticket to any US destination and over P300,000 worth of raffle items are also up for grabs in the event which has Globe Telecom, Prudential Guarantee, SM Prime Holdings, and Werdenberg Corp. as major hole sponsors. Organizers said registration is still open with 125 slots to be filled. For details, contact (046) 413-2639.

Bon tops 5th round

SUBIC—Misfortune struck series leader Gaby dela Merced in the fifth round yesterday, giving Dominique Bon of SRA the opportunity to shine in the 2003 SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway. Bon steered his Nissan Autosport-Big Shot Billiards to victory over Oscar Aguilar of Caltex, Mikko David of R1 Autosport-Big Shot Billiards and Menchie Francisco of Petron-SRA in this 14-part series organized by Sports Values Inc. Bon clocked 37:10.792 in the 12-lap race to beat Aguilar (37:23.932), David (37:25.580) and Francisco (37:36.343). Petron-Auto Solutions' Dela Merced, who dominated three of the first four rounds, figured in a car collision with Peewee Mendiola of Caltex and finished only sixth for the round. The day's only other winner was Dominic Tan of Mobil 1-Eurotiles-Auto Mekanika, who topped the sixth round over David and Francisco. The victory pushed Bon into a share of third to fourth places with Aguilar with 23 points based on the 10-6-4-3-2-1 scoring system. Dela Merced, one of only two female drivers in the registry, remained in the lead with 37 points, followed by David with 30 points.

Reality Combat successful

THE UNIVERSAL Reality Combat Championship 2 "Night of Champions" held recently turned out to be a success with over 4,000 fans trooping to the Philsports Arena. Among those who emerged victors were Charlie Angel, Glenn "The Slam Man" Sumanoy, Manuel "Cobra" Selmano, man-mountain TJ Tiu, rookies Fritz Rodriguez, and Raffy Garcia and Orlando Dulay. The "Night of Champions" went a full three and a half hours of bell-to-bell action on April 12. Presented by Solar entertainment, Colt 45 and PCSO in cooperation with Alaxan, official timer Casio-g-shock and Varig Airlines, the tournament was organized by Alvin Aguilar, Franz Von Muhfeld and Jed Dario.

DERBY favorite Empire Maker (left) runs with exercise rider Jose Cuevas aboard at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky Friday. Trainer Bobby Frankel is preparing the horse for the 129th Kentucky Derby today. REUTERS

RUN FOR THE ROSES

Empire Maker is 100% for 129th Kentucky Derby today

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Bobby Frankel stood atop a low brick wall alongside his barn Friday morning and issued a challenge to anybody who thinks Empire Maker won't win the Kentucky Derby: "Bet against him at your own risk."

Foot bruise?

"He's fine," he said.

The scary but ultimately harmless romp just after sunrise?

"He's playing with us right now," Frankel said. "Otherwise, it would be a boring week."

It's been anything but that for the Hall of Fame trainer.

Still, if he was worried about his 6-5 favorite facing 15 challengers in Saturday's 1 1/4-mile Derby, he was hiding it well.

"He's 100 percent," Frankel said no less than half a dozen times when asked about the strapping bay's right front foot. "He's going to run good. Don't worry about it."

Ten Most Wanted was the early second choice at 6-1, with Buddy Gil and Peace Rules—Frankel's other entry—each at 8-1.

The field was reduced by one after Sir Cherokee was scratched with an injured right rear leg.

Leading trainer Bob Baffert will saddle Indian Express in a bid for his fourth Derby win, while D. Wayne Lukas sends out Scrimshaw and Ten Cents a Shine with hopes of landing No. 5.

The 61-year-old Frankel, however, is still looking for his first.

"The script's written already," he said. "If he's meant to win, he's going to win. I think he's meant to win. He's just giving me a little aggravation right now."

Like on the track when he suddenly veered sideways while coming around a turn and backed up toward the outer rail in his first gallop since irritating the foot Tuesday.

An outrider on a pony reached over and grabbed Empire Maker's bridle and helped settle him down. With exercise rider Jose Cuevas aboard, the colt then galloped through the stretch and left the track with another pony.

"He pulled one of his little acts," Frankel said, adding that his star was only trying to get back to his barn. "That's why I was laughing when I came off the track. It's just part of the drama of this whole thing."

The horse's antics are part of his pedigree. "The whole family does it and it's never stopped any of them," said Frankel, who trained the dam, Toussaud, and several of her stakes-winning siblings. His sire is 1990 Derby winner Unbridled.

As for the bruise, the foot was being treated with an anti-inflammatory drug and the hoof soaked in a warm wrap this week. Things were going so well, Frankel said, the three-quarter shoe Empire Me: Buddy Gil, Indian Express and Peace Rules are in the lead at the top of the stretch, with Wood runner-up Funny Cide in the mix.

"Jerry said he's following Peace Rules because he knows Peace Rules isn't going to stop," Frankel said. Then, of course, Empire Maker makes his move and, they hope, wins.

Ron Ellis, who sends out late-closer Atswhatimtalknbout—partly owned by director Steven Spielberg—sees it this way:

"The speed horses up front look like legitimate contenders, so I don't think any will sneak off. My horse can sit five lengths off with a slow pace, or can be 10-15 back with a blazing pace," he said.

Empire Maker is owned by Saudi prince Khalid Abdullah's Juddmonte Farms, and, like Frankel, is looking for its first Derby win. They were second in the 2000 Derby with Aptitude, also trained by Frankel. Rarely seen in public, the 65-year-old Abdullah was expected to attend the race.

Peace Rules, winner of his last four races including the Louisiana Derby and Blue Grass Stakes, is owned by Edmund Gann, whose Medaglia d'Oro was fourth in last year's Derby.

Ten Most Wanted, winner of the Illinois Derby and improving rapidly, has been virtually overlooked. Pat Day, riding in his 21st Derby, will be aboard.

"It's all falling into place," trainer Wally Dollase said. "We just need to keep it going."

Rosemary Homeister Jr., aboard 50-1 long shot Supah Blitz, will become the fifth woman to ride in the Derby. "I know it's not like any other race, but I have to make it like it is," she said.

With 16 starters, the purse will be $1,100,200, with $800,200 going to the winner.

Post time is 6:04 p.m. EDT (6:04 a.m. in Manila). *AP*

NO. 2 PICK: Derby hopeful Ten Most Wanted is washed by groom Sergio Salazar after his workout at Churchill Downs. REUTERS

Wind Blown set to crush field in Arroyo Cup

WIND Blown seeks a third straight victory when the much-awaited summer horse racing classic honoring First Gentleman Mike Arroyo returns to the Santa Ana Park next Sunday.

With a hefty purse of P1.7 million, the eighth running of the PCSO Silver Cup will also feature six other seasoned stakes campaigners, who will challenge Wind Blown over the classic distance of 2,050 meters.

"The running of the First Gentleman's Silver Cup is a reaffirmation of the PCSO's commitment to the noble task of generating resources and opportunities to benefit and assist our underprivileged countrymen," said Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" de Leon, chair of PCSO, which is hosting the event in cooperation with the Philippine Racing Club, Inc.

Arroyo, the event's honoree, had earlier confirmed his attendance and is expected to award the prestigious Silver Cup to this year's champion.

The multi-titled six-year-old Wind Blown, a blowout winner of the Senate President's Cup last March 2 at the San Lazaro Hippodrome, is again a solid favorite to run away with the P1.1-million top prize.

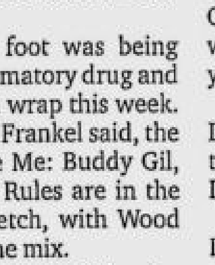
RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Speed Charm 2. Trick Shot 3. Lady Victoria
Race 2—1. Classic Star 2. Good Quality 3. La Española
Race 3—1. Conquer D' Sun 2. Harry's Up
Race 4—1. Prince of Africa 2. Eyewitness 3. Real Material
Race 5—1. District Three 2. Cryptorose
Race 6—1. Strawberry Hope 2. Power of D' Wind 3. E-Mail
Race 7—1. Praetorian 2. Namaste 3. Winter's Fury
Race 8—1. Express Strike 2. Dali Dali 3. D' Barrister
Race 9—1. Great Hill 2. Wild Guess 3.
Time Specialist
Race 10—1. Pasirit 2. Free Hand 3. Time to Party
Race 11—1. Day and Night 2. Summit Power 3. Crystal City

'World class' Carmona track still hot topic

ONE WINNER


Edwin Villanueva

THE "WORLD-CLASS" San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite continues to be the hot topic among the *bayang karerista*.

Other than the delay of the start of races, a questionable suspension slapped on a veteran jockey and a dubious photo-finish result which both happened a few days back were the favorite parleys in various off-track betting sites.

Many were surprised when Renato P. Gil, a former star rider now mired in the lowly Class D group, was meted only an eight-racing week ban when he lost atop import Absolute Charmer in the third race last Wednesday.

Racing fans surely still remember when Absolute Charmer won handily the last time out at the same track with Gil aboard.

But the horse and the way Gil performed were completely different than their previous run as Absolute Charmer finished a far third to the dismay of the filly's backers.

What fans want for Gil is a severe one-year suspension.

"*Dalang byahe talaga* (The horse was ridden to lose)," said one bettor, who was at the SLLP Wednesday night.

The other ugly incident also happened that day.

In Race 7, Midnight Special and Astimegoesby figured in a photo finish. Those who bet on Midnight Special howled in protest when the result was flashed declaring Astimegoesby winner by a nose.

Adding to the the poor bettors' consternation was the fact that SLLP couldn't provide an official photo of the final outcome.

***

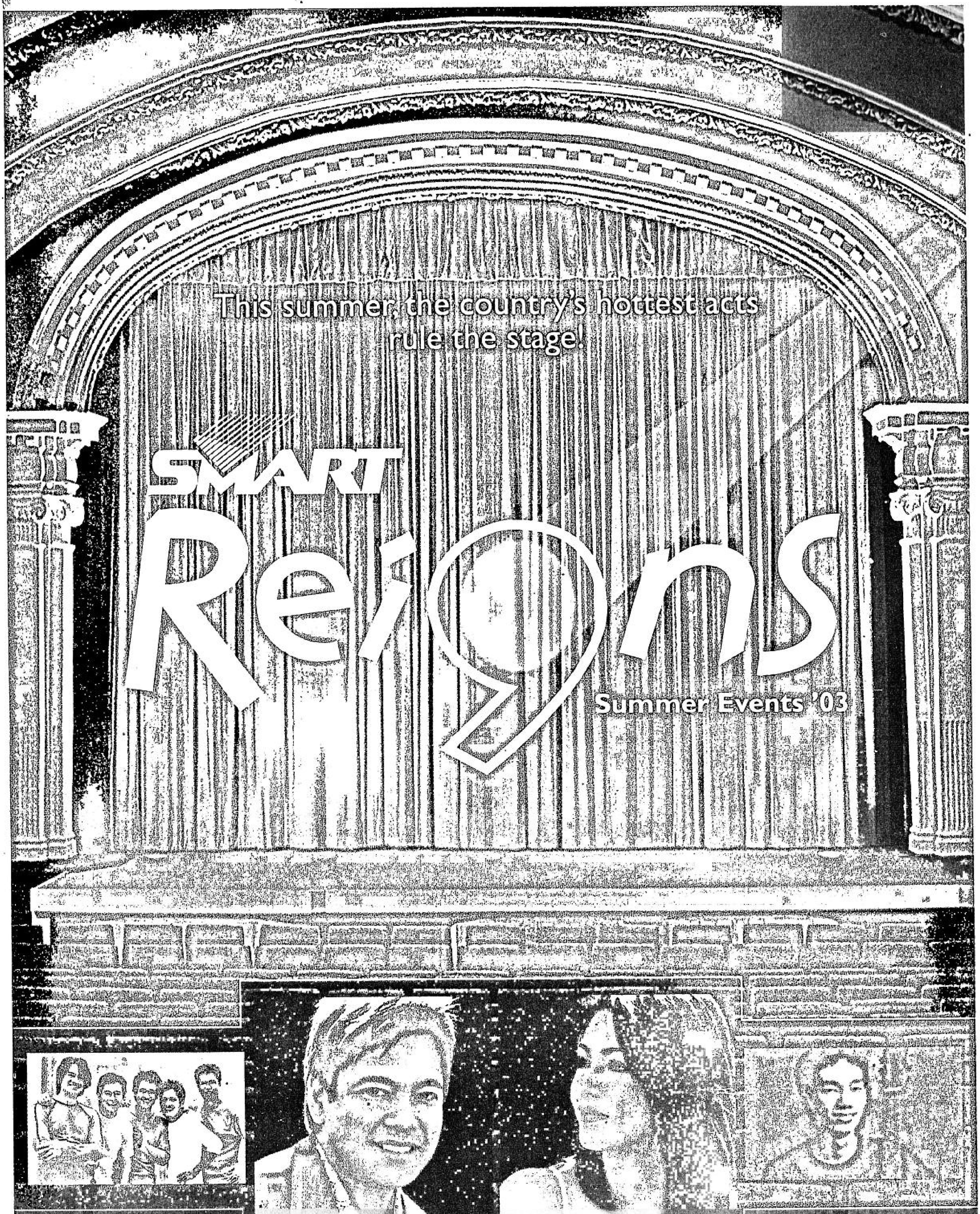
All eyes will be on the big colt Empire Maker when he tries to win the 129th running of the Kentucky Derby--the world's most famous horse race–in Louisville, Kentucky, today (Manila time).

Empire Maker is dubbed the "4-legged Kentucky Derby Dream Team" for having Hall of Famers Jerry Bailey as jockey, Bobby Frankel as trainer, and the only one among the 17 listed contenders sired by a former champion–1990 titlist Unbridled.

An impressive winner of the Wood Memorial and Florida Derby, Empire Maker is heavily favored to rule this year's Run for the Roses.

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or sports@inquirer.com.ph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Acoustic Night Out at Onstage
featuring Side A
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Martin Nievera & Regine Velasquez
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Draw dates will be on May 8 for the Martin & Regine concerts, May 15 and 29 for the Side A concerts and May 22 for the Paolo Santos concerts.

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Sunday BIZ

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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'Promdi' gives vent to several entrepreneurial ventures

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

AT 41, Ricco Ocampo of Anonymous, i2i, Mix, the Kitchen, Mangan and now Kai, a modern high-end Japanese restaurant, looks back proudly at his "promdi" days when he spoke only Kapampangan and could hardly speak heavily accented English and Tagalog.

He says he was forced to speak English when he went to New York for his senior year in high school under an exchange program. He liked New York and wanted to stay on but his parents told him and his sister to come home.

Growing up in the province and speaking Tagalog with an accent were among things Ricco wanted to hide from his classmates as these were not considered cool during a stage where everyone is conscious of race, breed and color.

But now he says he is glad he grew up in the province and experience rural living, which he says his children will never go through.

AS a 7-year-old while on vacation in Baguio.

FIRST JOB

His roots in a way helped him earn his first million. While in college, Ricco says he took to his hobby which was painting on T-shirts. Soon he decided to sell the shirts. He would make designs, buy shirts for P70, send these with the prototypes he made to the province to be copied, paid P25 for each painting job and sold the shirts for P250.

It was easy money and for a young person it was enough reason to quit school. He stopped when he was in his junior year and focused on his T-shirt business. He recalls he was a one-man business at the start. "I would deliver the shirts using a Tamaraw."

Soon many agents approached him wanting to sell the shirts, simply labeled Ricco, to various schools and shops. He says his main outlets then were Cinderella and Kirei.

He eventually went into a partnership with cousins on the Ocampo side and set up Sari-Sari which was aimed at expanding the concept of the T-shirt business. Thus the name. Eventually it expanded into shoes, bags and clothes.

But Ricco left Sari-Sari in the early '90s. It was not a good parting but he says his relationship with his cousins are better now.

He set up a high-end shop for clothes, bags and shoes—MIX—taking advantage of the then attractive exchange rate (P26:$1) to bring in the imported stuff. Prior to going on his own he married top model Tina Maristela who had just set up her own clothes shop—The Black Shop, which targets working women. Later they opened Fish, which is also a clothes shop geared toward younger women.

What followed was Anonymous—an eclectic shop of food, toiletries, clothes, home accessories, hair accessories.

Coming from a province like Pampanga, which is known for good cuisine, and being a lover of food himself (he used to weigh 200 pounds until he became a vegetarian and lose over 50 pounds), he has been thinking of setting up a restaurant but with a different concept.

He says he approached restaurateur Rikki Dee about his idea and asked his help. Four years ago he opened Kitchen. Although he 'does not have a partner in his retail businesses, for food, he got Dee.

PRE-VEGETARIAN days in the '80s.

RICCO Ocampo became a vegetarian in the '90s.

"I didn't really want to be a restaurateur but I like the idea of seeing people enjoy their food especially when they go back and talk to you about how they enjoy your restaurant," Ricco says.

The concept of Kitchen was to create unique and aesthetically pleasing restaurant which offers affordable food on good plates using good cutlery.

He says in the past good interiors and cutlery were used only in fine dining places.

One thing Ricco says he hates when eating out is being given the bill in a leatherette folder. He says he never uses this in any of his restaurants.

In his new place for example, in Greenbelt 2, Kai puts the bill in a rectangular ceramic container. Kai opened last March and it is owned by Ricco, Doris Magsaysay-Ho and four chefs from New York.

The concept is a high-end modern Japanese restaurant serving nouvelle cuisine but using traditional Japanese cooking methods.

PROMDI/ B2

JOAN BONDOC

ORGANIC goods remain in limited supply in the country.

Couples set up shop for organic goods

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SEARCH for an alternative lifestyle and the idealism for environment and health protection are what made a group of friends put up a business that promotes organic living.

Couples Jun Bandayrel and Mo Pagaduan; Martin Marfil and Ellen Ongkeko; Antonio "Tony" Lacaba and Nanette Matilac; Milabel Cristobal-Amar and Roberto Ador; and Quintin Cordero, put up the Organic Haven store—a one-stop shop for various organic merchandise that cater to everyday needs, such as food, medicine and hygiene products.

"Putting up the business was not only a profit venture but also a manifestation of our idealism," says Ellen. "We could earn a lot more if we just sell conventional products, but we stick to organic ones—which are less popular and scarce—because it is our way of advocating for health and the environment," Ellen says.

Ellen narrates that the idea of putting up Organic Haven, along E. Rodriguez Avenue in Cubao, Quezon City, started when she used to visit Nanette's house where organic food was always served.

"I used to be sickly, but when Nanette introduced to me the habit of eating organic food, I noticed my visits to the doctor became less often. This made me believe that organic food is indeed a lot healthier," she says.

Her improved health encouraged her to replace her grocery list with organic products, but she found out these were scarce.

"I had to source out my supply of organic rice, vegetables, chicken and soap from different places, and I found it too much of a hassle living an organic lifestyle. I even told myself, 'why does it have to be so difficult being good to my health and to Mother Earth,'" says Ellen.

Her dilemma eventually

COUPLES/ B2

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Sheer Driving Pleasure

Couples set up shop for organic goods

From page B1

made her thought of putting up a shop where all the things she needed would be available.

"I told my friends the idea of putting up Organic Haven and they all liked it," she says.

Prior to putting up the store, the group already owned an 8-hectare farm in San Miguel, Bulacan, where various organic plants are grown. Tony says the group bought the land sometime in 1997.

Plants such as basil, lemon grass and trees, such as durian, mahogany, narra and molave, grow in their farm.

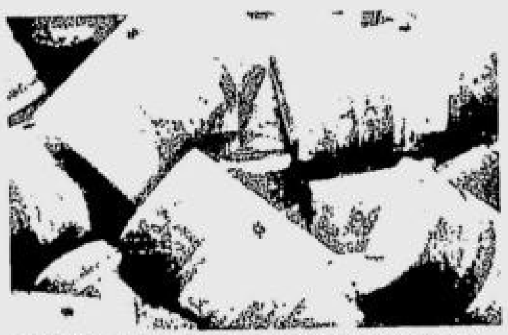
"Now that the store is put up, we already have a place to sell our farm products," says Tony.

But Tony admits that with the group's little experience in growing organic plants, some of the products sold in Organic Haven have to come from other suppliers. "We still cannot afford to produce all the products that our store sells, so we invited locators who can handle the supply of other products," says Tony.

Jojo Craig, store manager, says Organic Haven gets its supply of hygiene products, such as organic soap, body oil, shampoo, and Victoria's laundry soap and hair brightener from Daila Herbal Community Enterprises and from Vilcru Co.

Food supply, such as chicken, eggs, veggie-meat, brown and white rice, coconut wine, veggie-bread, wheat oat, honey and chocolates, come from various farm communities.

Carica Herbal Health Products Inc. and Pascual Laboratories, meanwhile, provide Organic Haven with its supply of herbal and medicinal products, such as honey, calamansi juice, banaba tea, ampalaya tea, and the Sambong Relief and Lagundi Ascof Forte which are anti-cough and anti-asthma medicines.



OTHER organic products are sourced from various suppliers. PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Tony says prices of organic products are still comparatively high due to limited supply. "There is still very few sources of organic products and this is why they cost a little more than the conventional ones," he says.

A kilo of organic brown rice, for example, costs P35, while tasty bread costs between P60 and P90, and fruits cost about P10 or P15 higher.

But Tony says the benefits of organic products still make them cost-efficient, and adds that the natural means of growing them—that is, without using chemical fertilizers—make them a lot safer for one's health and the environment. Organic products are also tastier, fresher and contain more nutrients, says Tony.

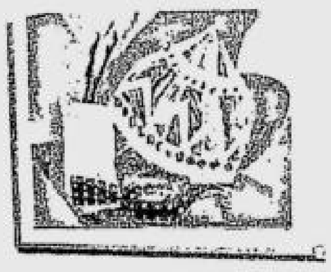
The group explains that organic farming adheres to the concept of biodiversity, which makes it possible to make a farm's produce healthy even without chemical fertilizers.

Some nutrients needed by a type of crop could be absent in some soil, but could be present in the root systems of other crops. A farmland practicing biodiversity, they say, has various crops planted on it and the crops share among themselves the nutrients present in their root systems. Banana, for example, which contains a lot of potassium, helps pineapple become sweeter if the two crops are planted in one soil.

One cannot say that he or she is into organic farming if he or she do not practice biodiversity. Integrated farming is one of the best ways to make crops healthy and pest-resistant, the group explains.

With their commitment to promote a healthy, organic lifestyle, Tony says he and his friends are open to the idea of expanding Organic Haven to several branches in the future.

"Nowadays when the world has to battle with a lot of sickness and environment degradation, we can only depend on our own will to change. We hope that more and more people will begin to appreciate the organic way of living," says Tony.



MO Pagaduan with friend.

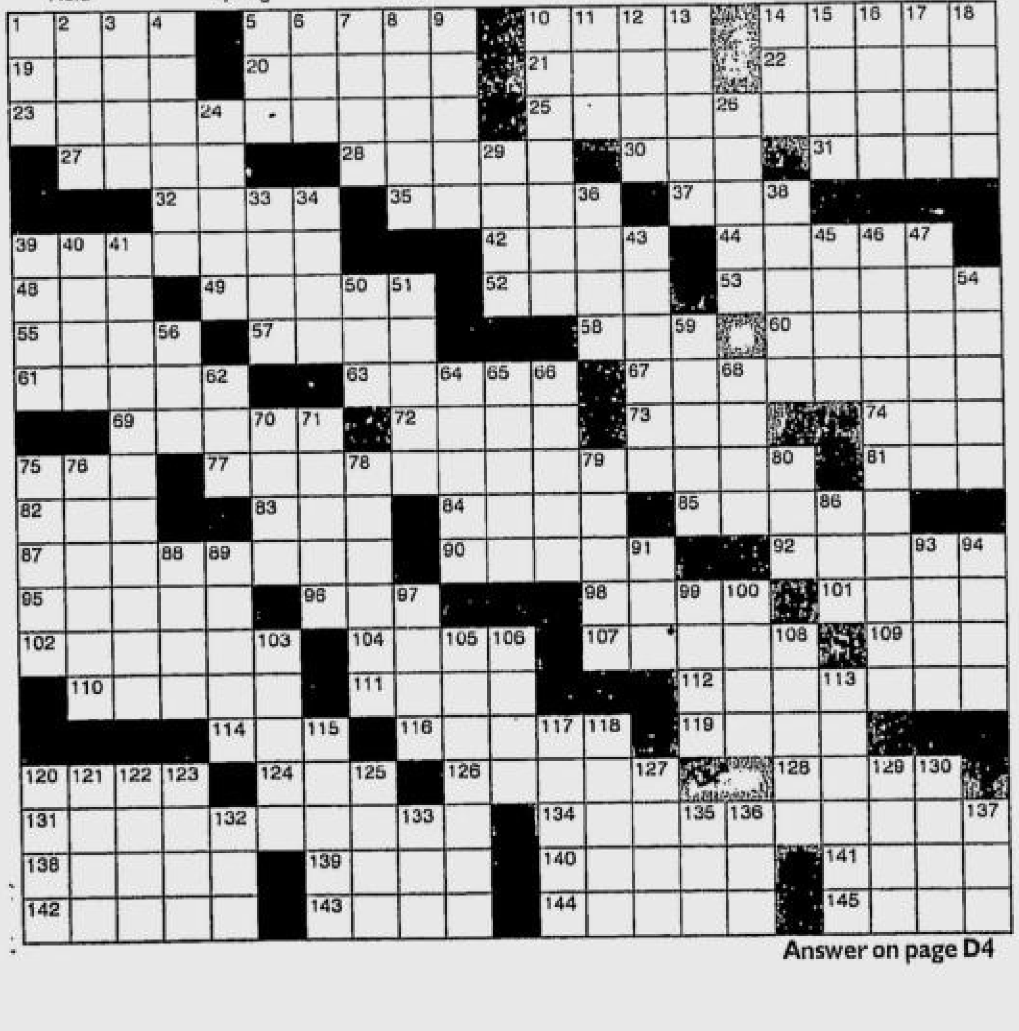
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

RHYME TIME

ACROSS
1 Covenant
5 Come out of one's shell
10 King or queen
14 Tracking tool
19 "— patriae"
20 Moscow's locale
21 Clarinet kin
22 Cover story?
23 Deception
25 Gibberish
27 Detergent target
28 Roman fountain
30 British bar
31 Nut part
32 Achy
35 Civil Rights org.
37 Baseball's Kluszewski
39 "Moby-Dick" narrator
42 Canvas cover
44 Some are deviated
48 — -Locka, FL
49 Equine exclamation
52 — gin fizz
53 Sufficient
55 Actress Reid
57 Misplace
58 Vane letters
60 Ring championship
61 Caribbean isle
63 Song-writers' org.
67 Idol's perch
69 Stiller's partner
72 Mediocre
73 Mohammed — Jinnah
74 Rage
75 Firms: abbr.
77 Disorderly
81 Marsh
82 Circle section
83 Damage
84 Ibsen's "— Gynt"
85 Flight segment
87 Migration
90 Remove varnish
92 — stop
95 Less available
96 Pie ingredient?
98 Holler
101 Kenton or Getz
102 Hardened
104 "— Indigo" ('31 song)
107 Sign of spring
109 Golfer's gadget
110 Islamic ruler
111 Singer Guthrie
112 Climb a trellis
114 "Uh-uh!"
116 Extra
119 Jim Morrison, for one
120 Lost
124 Tiny
126 Peter of "Casablanca"
128 Arizona city
131 Disorganized
134 Weak
138 Spout like Cicero
139 Close noisily
140 Richard's veep
141 Austin or Garr
142 "The — Drop Kid" ('51 film)
143 Use the VCR
144 Rocky Mountain range
145 Pile

DOWN
1 "Fie!"
2 Famous fellow?
3 Fashion's Chanel
4 Platitude
5 Cool
6 Fuss and feathers
7 Savoir-faire
8 Make butter
9 Biblical book
10 Amusing
11 — Dhabi
12 Frolic
13 Premiere
14 Scott's "The — Quartet"
15 Grad
16 — novel
17 Eban of Israel
18 Disturbance
24 Ashcan artist John
26 Too heavy
29 Puncheons
33 Rod's companion
34 Designer Fiorucci
36 Freighter front
38 Al — (cooking term)
39 It comes before kappa
40 Practice punching
41 Reckless
43 Foreign correspondent?
45 "Petits —"
46 Kind of confection
47 Blazing
50 Youth org.
51 "Siddhartha" author
54 Soprano Traubel
56 Presidential nickname
59 Ridges
62 Ooh's partner
64 Military unit
65 Selling point
66 Hearth hardware
68 Forgo the fudge
70 San —, Italy
71 Consternation
75 Inner circle
76 Journalist Fallaci
78 Shock
79 Author Jong
80 Prison pariah
86 Taxing org.
88 Withered
89 Act like an egret
91 Norm
93 D-Day site
94 ". . . my banjo on my —"
97 Mount —, FL
99 Schubert song
100 Carson's successor
103 Haggard
105 Connecticut town
106 Extinct bird
108 "The Bristol —" ('61 hit)
113 Christmas decoration
115 Criminal caper
117 Director Lubitsch
118 Dais covering
120 Way off base?
121 Lassie's father
122 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
123 Choir member
125 Poet Wilcox
127 Give off
129 Hook's mate
130 Steinbeck character
132 Craving
133 Drink like a dachshund
135 Street salutation
136 Hither and —
137 Puppy protest



Answer on page D4

How many stubs does it take to win a raffle?

ARTURO Aguinalde

PETE Lozada

NOEL Burgos

MARICEL Velando

MOST stores occasionally conduct raffle promotions to encourage spending.

Many wonder how many entries does it take to win a promotion.

Below are some stories of winner of Super SM's Shop n' Win promotion last year which they launched again last March:

For restaurant owner Cecilia Vasallo, it took only two stubs to be a winner in Shop n Win's daily draw. Vasallo shops at the hypermarket two to three times a week to buy groceries and ingredients for her restaurant and spends P7,000 to P8,000 on groceries, seafood, and other items per visit. On the day she won, "I only spent P1,000 and never expected to win."

With her winnings, "I treated the whole family to a shopping spree. We went shopping and hoped to win again!"

Olympian Pete Lozada has been a winner in many ways—Asian Games medalist, Olympic games winner and coach. The president of the Lozada Commercial Inc., he was at the hypermarket only for the second time and had 20 raffle coupons when he won last September.

With his P10,000 prize, he bought toys and shoes at the hypermarket for his 24 apos. He says he'll "definitely be back—especially to check out the grocery and prepared food areas, as well as the meats section."

A resident of nearby Multinational Village, Adwin Umali of Metrobank says visiting Super SM is a "family affair every Saturday … It's a one-stop shop—everything is there." It was during one of these outings that they won.

Pharmacist and businesswoman Maricel Velando says she visits the hypermarket every week to shop at the meat and seafood area. "I don't go to the wet market anymore because I can find what I need at Super SM," she says. "It's not only very clean, it's also cheaper."

"I bought some groceries and a portable VCD and stereo component for my daughter," she says of her prize.

It was his love for mangoes and snacks that brought Filipino-Norwegian Noel Burgos to one of his weekly trips to the hypermarket. An 18-year-old student at Arbor Montessori, Noel has been in the Philippines for only a year. It was the purchase of mangoes that made him a daily winner.

Not having won any raffle in his life, he promptly bought gifts for his family—a television set for his sister and a microwave oven for his parents.

Winning in the daily draw was an early Christmas gift for both Dr. Betty Torres and Lydia Silva. Doctor Torres shops every Saturday at the fresh fruits and vegetables section, while Lydia frequents the grocery, meat, fruit and vegetables area.

Torres, who bought her stuff at the Bicutan hypermarket, considers this her "lucky store" and with her winnings bought Christmas gifts and food for the family's Noche Buena. Dec. 25 winner Lydia, on the other hand, says that winning "was the best Christmas gift I ever received," and bought a component with VCD, "now our living room centerpiece."

Arturo Aguinalde was on one of his regular trips to Super SM—he stocks up groceries every two weeks—when he joined the raffle and won the quarterly prize of P700,000. "I like the store's layout and friendly ambiance," he says. "It's hassle-free shopping." A retired civil engineer who's now a pastor, he donated part of his earnings to his ministries, and put the rest in an investment portfolio. "God has truly blessed me," he says.

The promotion is in the Super SM Hypermarket in SM Supercenter Sucat and SM City Bicutan.

Every P500 single receipt purchase at any Super SM Hypermarket entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win P10,000 worth of gift certificates in the daily draw, P100,000 cash in the monthly draw and P1 million cash in the grand draw on Jan. 17, 2004. The promo ends Dec. 31.

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

DR. Betty Tores with daughter-in-law Eva and grandson Raffaelo.

ALDWIN and Liezl Umali

'Promdi' gives vent to several entrepreneurial ventures

From page B1

The idea for Kai started when his wife Tina got involved in a fund-raising project for The Asian Society with Doris. They brought in four chefs to concoct the P5,000 a plate dinner.

The Filipino chefs based in New York worked in a restaurant called Kai (which is Japanese for gathering). After the fund raising, the chefs approached Tina and Ricco and told them they wanted to set up a restaurant. Ricco says he talked to Doris who agreed to support the venture.

"I have been craving for a high-end restaurant. I wanted to try that niche in the restaurant business. I already have that in Mix."

Ricco's other food ventures—Kitchen, Mangan and recently Osake, are geared toward the middle to lower market. Mangan serves Kapampangan food and Osake serves affordable Japanese dishes. Kitchen has two branches; Mangan has three (they are about to open in Alabang) and Osake has one in Glorietta and is set to open another in Megamall on May 15.

For Mangan he also tied up with Dee and Maritel Nievera of Cabalen.

Ricco says they did not think of the economic state of the country when they decided to open a high-end place—they wanted to push for the concept of a non-traditional Japanese restaurant.

He notes that based on his retail business—the top market—which is Mix, has not been affected by the crunch.

So far he says Kai is doing OK and he hopes to make his ROI in one year, same with his other restaurants.

Asked if this is not too short a time, he says that has been his policy, even with his other restaurants.

He says they have had returnees already. When we conducted this interview, seen eating in Kai were Celeste Legaspi, Butz Aquino and Cory Aquino.

He himself is doing the marketing of Kai by being there every night and says if he has to do the job of a waiter he will do it just to make sure everything is OK. He adds that since they cater to the high-end market, details have to be given particular attention to.

He also says one cannot brush aside complaints from this market and he has instructed his people not to argue with the complaints but to simply take away the dish in question and replace it.

He says his partners lament this but adds that in the end this will pay off.

After several entrepreneurial ventures, Ricco says he intends to slow down and take a rest soon. He says his children are complaining that they hardly see him.

A typical day for him is going to work at nine, finishing at nine and going straight to Kai.

He admits the retail business is affected by the economic slowdown. What is doing well is his i2i, a low-end eyewear shop. He is expanding this further by setting up in all—167 of them—7-11 shops in the country.

Anonymous, which has about 37 outlets, will be maintained. Black Shop will also be expanded.

Ricco says they intend to open another Kai restaurant possibly in the Ortigas area. After that, "that's it" he says.

But ask him what his other business ideas are and he stops, and you know he still has several up his sleeves. And true enough he revealed one—a very niche business. But he says "not yet."

WITH wife top model-turned-entrepreneur Tina Maristela.

THE RETAIL business may be down but Ocampo says his eyewear line thrives.

THE YOUNG couple with their two eldest kids.

HE SAYS he wants to slow down so he can travel more.

There's good business in teaching languages to execs

By Leah Salterio

THERE'S good business in a language school and this has been proven by Berlitz Language Center, which recently celebrated its first anniversary.

Berlitz is adding an expansion bay with six more rooms will be added to its center at the second floor of Peninsula Court Building on the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Makati Avenue in Makati City.

"Our 12 months of existence has definitely brought knowledge, satisfaction and, most importantly, enjoyment to hundreds of our foreign and Filipino students in the quest for acquiring another language, be it French, Italian, German, Spanish, English, Mandarin, Japanese, Fookien, Cantonese and Filipino," said language center director and general manager Marika Constantino Garcia, in her anniversary address.

Garcia's father, Renato Constantino Jr., son of the nationalist and educator with the same name, bagged the local franchise for Berlitz with five other individuals.

The team won over four other local business groups in the Philippines, including the Gokongweis, which expressed their interest in the Berlitz franchise.

Constantino acts as the chair of the board. Wilson Go, an IBM executive and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), is president. Dr. Alfred Tong from the Ateneo and multi-media businessman Norbert Chingcuanco are vice presidents. Rita Kaw, who runs a pre-school in Binondo, is treasurer.

To date, Berlitz has serviced a number of corporate and education institutions and organizations through its language courses. The companies are Solid Cement, Cemex, Joaquin Cunanan and Co., Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Young Presidents Organization, Colgate-Palmolive, Alcatel Philippines, Aztec, Eastland Manufacturing, Caltex Philippines, Infosolutions International, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Matrix, Philippine Social Science Council and Procter and Gamble.

Berlitz has also forged partnership with Edu-Quest, Asia Call Center, The Rockwell Club and mapua, Inc. to be their language service provider.

Plans are afoot for the center to formulate and deliver the foreign language proficiency tests to the students of University of Asia and the Pacific.

Constantino gave the opening remarks and was overwhelmed with the success of Berlitz Manila and its growing roster of clients.

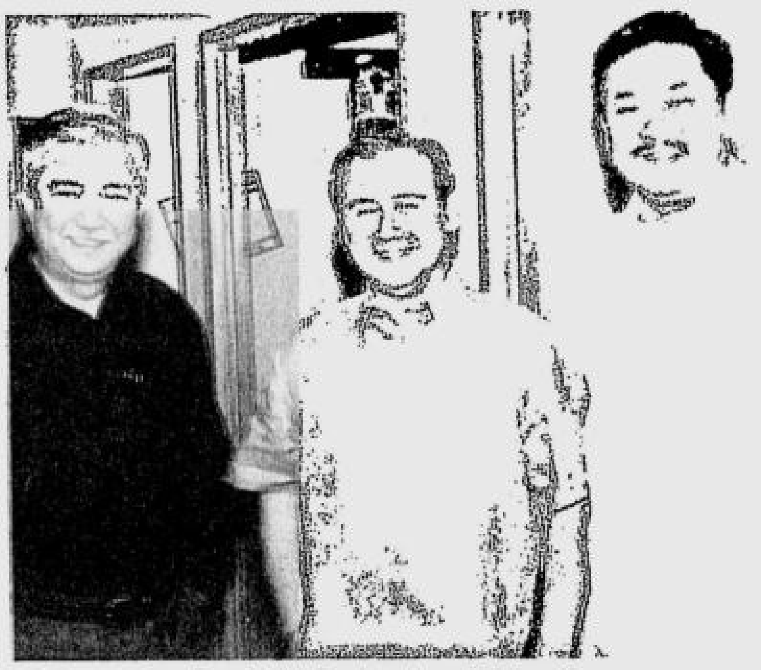
Guests of honor were Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Rep. Butz Aquino and Teddy Boy Locsin Jr.

Binay, who was also the "ninong" of the event, expressed his satisfaction that the board decided to locate the first Berlitz Language Center in the premiere business district of Metro Manila. He also assured the board members that they have his and the Makati government's full support in achieving more success.

Aquino amused the audience with a short story of his first experience with Berlitz. He remembers hearing about Berlitz when he was still wearing short pants. In those days when Filipinos were expected to speak Spanish, Aquino shared he bought Berlitz's long playing records to be able to speak and read Spanish fluently.

Locsin believes that the major export of the Philippines is our talented people. He also affirmed that one of the best ways to enhance the skills of Filipinos is to acquire a new language. Locsin pointed out Berlitz in the Philippines is a great move for economic development and globalization.

Constantino believes their investment is an opportune time to bring the global reach and background of Berlitz to the Philippines.



RC Constantino, Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin and Wilson Go.

MONETTE Vicencio and Rep. Butz Aquino

RITA Kaw and Mayor Jejomar Binay

Three . . .

From page B12

the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC)—or if it has been established for religious, charitable, cultural, social welfare or research purposes—its mother corporation will be exempted from paying a donor's tax, which usually amounts to 30 percent of the donation value. These deductions may substantially decrease the amount of taxes paid by the mother corporation and may even serve as an incentive for the business to donate larger amounts to charitable causes. (This is something to consider, especially since you've just finished filing your taxes!)

If you think that your corporation is too small to establish a corporate foundation, remember that corporate foundations need not be founded by just a single entity. Diwa Learning Systems, the country's leading publisher of educational magazines, realized through one of its seminars that it needed to develop the country's educators in order to make meaningful improvements in the quality of Philippine education. It thus founded, in 1991, the Bato Balani Foundation, an organization dedicated to developing the quality of education in the country through school, teacher and student development.

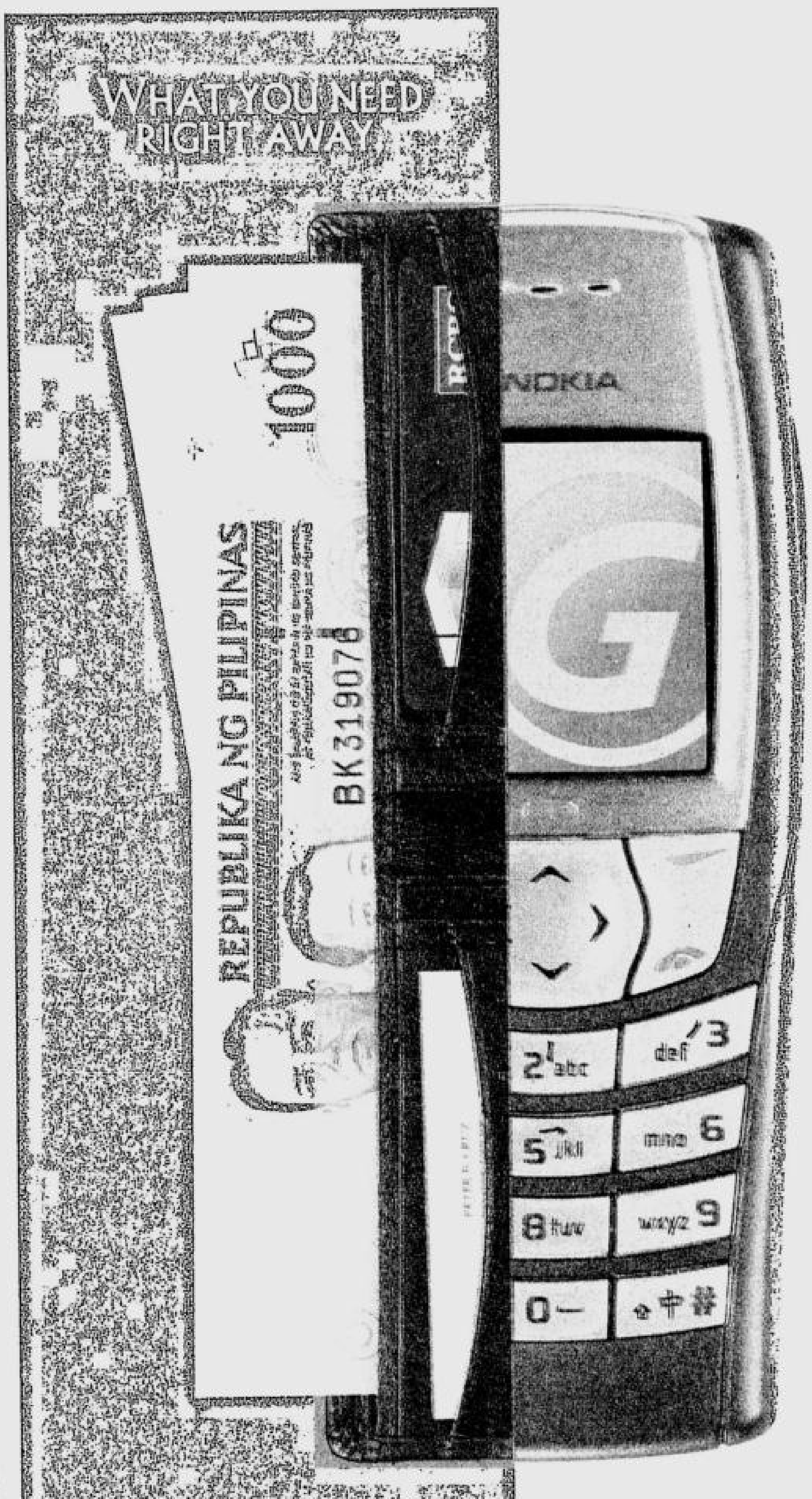
To add more muscle to its programs, Diwa Learning Systems sought the support of its affiliates from the Diwa Asia Publishing Group as well as from subsidiaries of First Asia Venture Capital-its mother company. Today, Bato Balani Foundation is supported by: Diwa Asia Publishing Group, Belgosa Media Systems, First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities, FASTECH Synergy Limited, Afreight Asia Pacific Limited and Asset Growth, Inc.

The foundation enjoys a strong and active partnership with its corporate partners. According to Elaine Go-Mapa, executive director, Bato Balani's board of trustees is composed of people from its parent company and corporate partners. They decide on important concerns, like programs and policies and also provide much-needed human resources. "The foundation has a very limited number of full-time employees ... Staff of its corporate partners [actively work] *pro bono* on official or personal time to run the programs. Some of them have [even] been given 'seconding' assignments in the foundation." In return, the foundation serves as the companies' social development and project management arm.

This partnership seems to be effective, indeed, as Bato Balani Foundation has been reaping awards for its numerous programs such as How To Be A Highly Effective Teacher—a skills-development program for teachers; Tulong sa Paaralan, Tulay sa Kaunlaran—a library and school assistance program and Quality Teacher—a magazine distributed free to teachers.

Of course, prestige and profitability are just some of the "by-products" of corporate philanthropy. But as more SMEs take the "corporate foundation route" they will hopefully realize how, in the long run, its benefits will far outweigh its costs. (Increasing its involvement in charitable and social causes will also boost employee morale, increase productivity, and establish the company as a committed corporate citizen.)

(The author works with Venture for Fund Raising, a non-profit organization that provides consulting, research, public information, and training assistance on fund raising to other NGOs in the Philippines and Asia. Email nina@venture-asia.org for comments and questions.)



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2. Upon approval and booking of loan, choose from any of the following phones with corresponding plan from Globe Handyphone:
    - Nokia 3530 FREE at G-Text (Plan 500)
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3. Globe Handyphone applications with current multiple lines and/or with negative credit history are required to submit additional proof of income and/or settlement of overdue balances for approval.
4. All approved loans must be maintained until maturity of the loan term or a pre-termination fee of P10,000 will be charged. The Globe Handyphone subscriptions must be maintained for 24 months or a pre-termination fee of P10,000 or the handset cost, whichever is higher, will be charged.
5. A Globe Handyphone Redemption Certificate will be given upon booking of loan.
6. Present the Redemption Certificate, Loan Document and valid ID in claiming the free phone from Globe. Claiming of phones is up to August 30, 2003 only.
7. For more information, call us at 634-9501, 637-7126, 636-7976, 634-7008 locals 2102 to 2107. Or e-mail us at personal_loans@rsb.rcbc.com.

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Fil-Chi celebrates 4th anniversary

TO CELEBRATE their 4th year in service, the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines, led by commissioner Myrna T. Yao, held a fund-raising fusion in music concert titled "Night of a Hundred Flowers", signifying the coming of age of the Filipino-Chinese women. Held at the Philam Concert Hall on March 8 in time with the Women's Day celebration, the concert was held for the benefit of grassroots-based women entrepreneurs, whom Fil-Chi is helping to develop and grow into small-medium entrepreneurs.

A fusion of Filipino and Chinese classical and popular songs, the concert featured Jose Mari Chan with some of the outstanding Filipino and Chinese classical singers. The opening salvo by Dennis Lee was a funny and at the same time poignant re-enactment of a Chinese immigrant's plight when he arrived in the Philippines. It was followed by wonderful performances by classical singers Dodo Crisol, Elaine Lee, Candy Fan, the Yellow River Ensemble and the Liatsan Family Orchestra. The finale showed Jose Mari Chan singing his memorable songs.

Incorporated in the concert was the awarding of outstanding women in government, business and profession, women who embody the women of the new millenium - assertive, dynamic leaders who excel in whatever field they are into. The awardee for government was Sec. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas of the Department of Labor and Employment whose tenure as a public servant is consistently marked by topnotch accomplishments and effective performance. Mother Lily Monteverde of Regal Entertainment, the longest surviving production outfit in the country, was the awardee for business. For profession, it was Ms Joan Sy-Cotio of Chiang Kai Shek College who has been cited several times for innovative teaching techniques. Chairing the search committee was Ms. Lily Lim Chua.

Another award was the Teacher Appreciation for teachers who inspire the youth to pursue a career in the teaching education that can bring about social transformation in the country. The awardees are professor Melissa Alma R. Orencia, Dr. Estrella P. Mercado, professor Rita M. Bumanglag, professor Childa R. Magallanes, Dr. Zenaida Q. Reyes and professor Nenita C. Marte. Ms Nenet Ang chaired the Teacher Appreciation committee.

Guest of honor and speaker was Senate President Franklin Drilon who cited Fil-Chi for its advocacy and action plan for the empowerment of women, especially those in the grassroots level. On hand to assist the awarding was former Education undersecretary and now president of the Philippine Normal University, Dr. Nilo Rosas.

Chairing the very successful concert was lawyer Amy L. Wong with lawyer Dianne Franco and Ms Tessie Yapson as co-chairs.

FROM left: Chair Oye de Dios, comm. Myrna Yao, lawyer Amy Wong and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

FROM left: Loly Uy, Maricorn Malitao, Moring So, Tina Chan, Tessie Lim, president Myrna Yao, Baby Ortiz, Rosario Lim, Lily Lim Chua, Lily Tantoco, Rosemarie Tee.

Filipino cited for coffee formulation

A FILIPINO woman cited for the formulation of a unique blend of herbal instant coffee. A breakthrough in nutraceutical and food supplement drinks that can boost the immune system and the longevity life of coffee lovers.

These three coffee herbal Moreishi (derived from morinda-reishi, 2 most powerful potent herbs), an insta-brew, 10 in 1 instant coffee, and slimming instant coffee are formulated by Dr. Vicenta Mendoza-Escobar, a highly distinguished pharmacologists - pharmacists and former professor of Pharnacognosy (study of medicinal plants) in the college of pharmacy, Centro Escolar University.

An advocate and expert on indigenous local herbs, Dr. Escobar, is the current chair of Task Force on Licensing and Regulation of Herbal Food Products composed of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Science and Technology (Dost), and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Moreishi Insta-Brew Flavored Coffee is sugar and fat free made of arabica and robusta coffee beans roasted to perfection and combined with reishi (red mushroom-king of herbs) and ginseng (king of medical roots).

Moreishi 10 in 1 instant coffee is a synergistic combination of coffee, non-dairy creamer, sugar and 7 premium herbs such as ginger, kelp, astragalus, ginseng, gotu kola, reishi and turmeric.

Moreishi slimming coffee is especially designed for people with diabetes and those aspiring to keep a fit and slim body. A coffee blended with ampalaya and banaba, it also contains reishi, ginseng, kelp, ginger and turmeric.

Other moreishi products formulated by Dr. Escobar are the power juice drink, tonic drink, toothpaste and instant noodles. All formulation are the first in the history of herbal industry both local and international.

All products are synergically empowered with herbs such as morinda (Indian mulberry), reishi (red mushroom), ampalaya, astragalus, banaba, chanca piedra, green tea, ginger, ginseng, tienchi ginseng, tea tree, gotu kola, kelp, and turmeric accordingly to each purpose. These herbs are known as an adaptogen, immune booster and gives longevity of life.

The synergic combination of herbs that contain in every moreishi products will prevent and cure all illness (testified by satisfied users) such as cancer, hepatitis, elephantiasis, diabetes, goiter, ailments of the heart, respiratory, kidney, nervous system, skin, internal infection, thyroid etc.

For more information about moreishi products call Empower at tel. #534-7819 or visit 2nd floor, Roscar Bldg., Edsa, Quezon City (infont of MRT Boni-terminal).

UNILEVER SUPPORTS ANTI-SARS EFFORTS OF DOH

As a response to the call of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the government's Sars Task Force, Unilever Philippines (with its brands Domex, Lifebuoy and Vaseline antibacterial lotion) provided products to San Lazaro Hospital and to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). These products were donated through the office of Secretary Manuel Dayrit of the Department of Health. Unilever believes that Sars is not just the government's problem but it is everybody's problem. 'We would like to help by addressing the front door, which is Naia and the containment, which is San Lazaro Hospital and the RITM for the National Capital Region,' says Chito Macapagal, GM for corporate development, Unilever. Photo shows Sec. Dayrit receiving the Unilever products during the ceremonial turnover held at the DOH. With him are (from left): Anna Fernandez (assistant brand manager, Lifebuoy), Gem Misa (assistant brand manager, Domex) and Chito Macapagal (GM-corporate development manager, Unilever).

REGINE'S HOMECOMING CONCERT

It must be written in the stars. It must be destiny. After all, no one can deny the fact that Regine Velasquez is one of the country's top performers. She has toured around the Philippines and in various countries, performed before jam-packed crowds, and starred in films, which broke box-office records. She is a hit-maker, a television host, a box-office star, and a certified crowd drawer. She is Asia's one and only Songbird. Now, after so many years since she last performed in her hometown, Baliwag, where she first started singing, Regine will perform before her fellow Bulakenod on May 30. Expect another breath taking performance as Events and Shows Inc., in cooperation with Tenthaus Productions, presents 'Regine Returns: A Homecoming Concert in Baliwag' at the TGI Driving Range in Sabang, Baliwag, Bulacan. For ticket inquiries, contact Events and Shows Inc. at 688-4404, 635-3790, 0917-8137007, 0917-5165516, and TGI Pavilion Baliwag, Bulacan (044) 766-6326.

Citystate's first quarter income, 133 percent

CITYSTATE Savings Bank, a publicly listed company increased it's first quarter net income by 133 percent compared to the same period last year. The improvement in performance was driven mainly by the bank's effort to maximize returns on loans and income generating acquired assets and product enhancement.

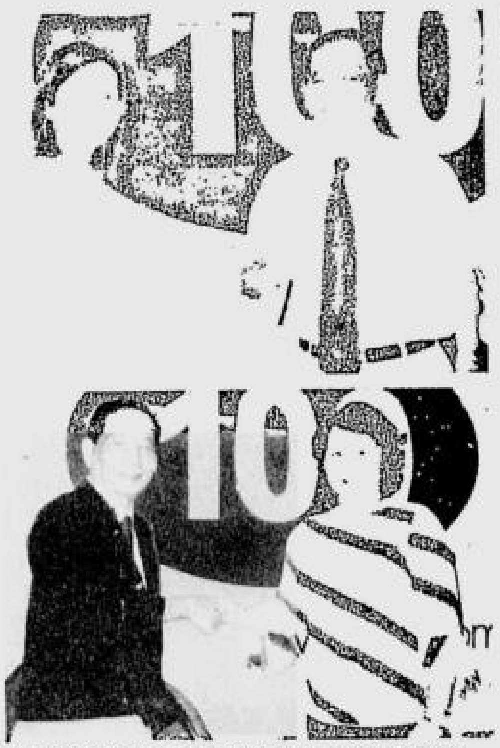
The interest income surged 28.35 percent as the non-interest income rose by 116 percent in the first quarter reports.

The loan portfolio expanded by 240 percent to P853 million from the same period last year of P356 million. Despite the increase in loans the non-performing loans, (NPL) was stable at 4.65 percent against industry average of 12.16 percent as of December 2002.

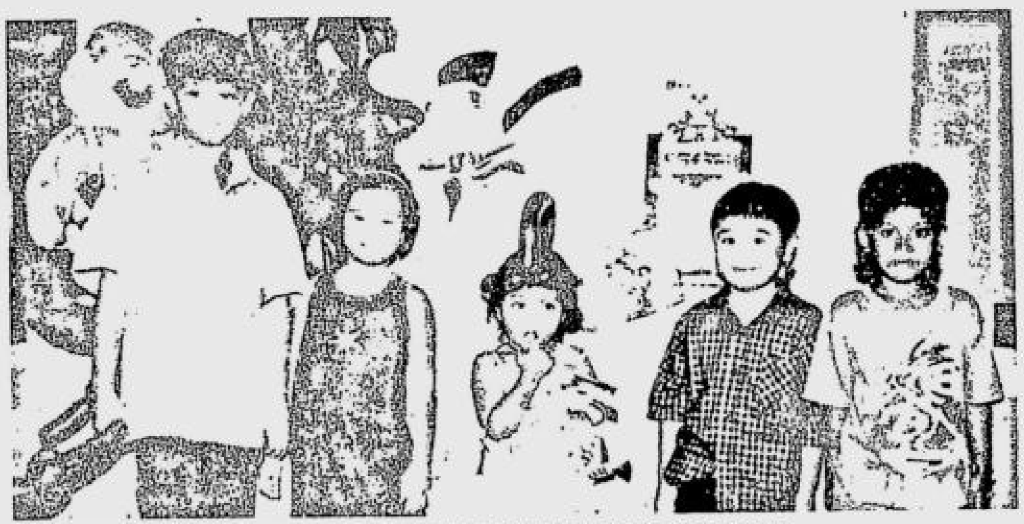
The bank's deposit levels soared to new heights of 47 percent of 676 million from P460 million in the same period last year. Despite the setback on the current economic situation we face, the results reflect the success of the company's customer relationship strategy with positive growth in deposits as a result of product enhancement especially in our CityMAX account, a 3-in-1 account, reduced interest rates on jewelry loan of 1 to 2 percent per month and its competitive rates in autofinancing.

To further reach and expand its product, Citystate Savings Bank filed an application with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to venture into microfinancing to open a branch in Balagtas, Bulacan and expect to open an additional microfinance branch in Quezon City within the year.

Citystate Savings Bank is a Filipino-Singaporean owned company, operated by a consortium which includes the Fortune Insurance Group, one of the country's leading insurance firms, and foreign investors in the Citystate Management Group Holdings Pte. Ltd of Singapore that manages insurance and real estate business organizations throughout Southeast Asia.


EVERYTHING 100 FRANCHISEES

Everything 100, the one-price complete shopping attraction, recently signed in 3 more franchisees, one of them is Ms Annie Barangan, franchisee of Everything 100 at Park Avenue Basement of the Robinsons Galleria (shown in top photo); and Ms Perla Avila, franchise owner of Everything 100 at Gaisano Mall, Butuan City (bottom photo). Both sealed the franchise agreement with Mr Manny Siggaoat, chair of Manels Leathergoods Corp., the holding company of Everything 100. Visit Everything 100 and discover more value for your peso


EASTER SAFARI PARTY AT THE CENTURY PARK HOTEL

Hundred of kids of all ages, including 'kids at heart' came in droves to the grand ballroom of the Century Park Hotel to join the Easter Safari Party. Thanks to the support of the Disney Channel, Buena Vista International and Dream Satellite Television, Little Archers Learning Center, Island Cove Leisure Park, Time Zone, 8 Waves Water Park, Bert Lozada Swim School, Nestle Ice Cream, Lotte Gums, Purefoods Hotdogs, Nugget Food Corporation, Fibisco, Doritos, Magic 89.9, Newton Food products, Frito Lay, Knottsberry Farm Fruitee Iced Tea and Swissmiss Milkshake. Sparky the Clown, in a very colorful costume and country hat, played host to the party games and entertainment. Marty the Shark did the Ketchup Dance, which both the kids and parents enjoyed. A huge screen at one end gave a preview of various cartoon shows, movies and programs of the Disney Channel. The movie trailer of the upcoming Buena Vista International movie Jungle Book 2 was shown. In photo are the participants of the Easter Safari Party at the Century Park Hotel with their Disney goodies.

ProductFILES

Intellect now opens in Binondo

INTELLECT - the Information Technology Center, an educational partnership between SM (Shoemart) Foundation and IBM Philippines, opens its new branch in the San Fernando Tower in Binondo. Intellect offers the IBM Diploma in Advanced Computer Software Engineering and short courses on Website Design and Programming, MS Office Applications, Networking, Programming, Desktop Publishing, and Contract Center Education. Other branches are located in SM North Edsa and APC Magallanes. For more information email us at intellect@apc.edu.ph or call 245-4886 or 5654.

TOYM FOUNDATION PRESENTS NEW OFFICERS

The Toym Foundation Inc. announced its new set of officers during the meeting held at the Phinma Boardroom, Phinma Plaza, Rockwell Center recently. In photo are (seated, from left): Cecilio K. Pedro, Toym Foundation treasurer; Amb. Ramon V. Del Rosario Sr., chair emeritus; Enrique G. Filamor, outgoing chair; Menardo G. Jimenez Jr., Toym Foundation president; Michael Alan Z. Ranillo, Philippine Jaycees national president and Toym Foundation vice president. Standing (from left): Larry G. Cruz, foundation executive director; Randy O. Manaloto, foundation director; Malu Mangahas; Roberto A. Alvarez Jr., foundation secretary; Jonathan Jay Aldeguer, foundation director; Rafael P. Dizon III, Toym 2003 search chair; JM Antonio Pascual, foundation director; Ismael P. Penado, PJC secretary general. Not in picture are Ms Judy A. Roxas, chair of Gerry Roxas Foundation; Guido A. Delgado, Toym Foundation chair; and other foundation directors: Gloria L. Tan Climaco; Jaime C. Laya; Mabel P. Villarica-Mamba; Marissa D. Nallana, and Ramfel R. Preclaro, PJC executive director.

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CORAL TROUT (LAPU LAPU)	– Plectropomus maculatus
PARROT FISH (LORO)	– Scarus sordidus
RED SNAPPER (DALAGANG BUKID)	– Lutjanus campechanus
ONAGA	– Etelis coruscans
TIGER PRAWN (SUGPO)	– Penaeus esculentus
WHITE PRAWN (HIPON)	– Penaeus vannamei

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AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENT: May 01 - 06

Agence France-Presse,

a global news agency, requires an

ENGINEER

in the Manila bureau.

Candidates should have the qualifications and experience to handle all technical needs of the bureau and maintain smooth flow of services to clients. The engineer will liaize with the regional HQ and must be fluent in English and have good organizing skills.

Applications, including full academic details and working experience, should be sent by e-mail not later than May 12 to:

p.parameswaran@afp.com

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is in need of

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Applicants must be graduates of
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11 Pine St., New Marikina Subd.,
San Roque, Marikina 1801

NOTICE OF LOSS

Admiral Color TV
Distributed by: **Unisphere Holdings, Inc.**

Notice is hereby given that fourteen (14) units of Admiral 29" colored TV sets with the serial nos.

(1)	27A902110150,	(2)	27A9021101123,
(3)	27A902110121,	(4)	27A902110089,
(5)	27A902110070,	(6)	27A902110112,
(7)	27A902110154,	(8)	27A92110105,
(9)	27A902110025,	(10)	27A902110044,
(11)	27A902110145,	(12)	27A902110145,
(13)	27A902110102,	(14)	27A902110095,

were lost on 15 February 2003 due to fraud and deception of unscrupulous individuals.

The public is forewarned that the above mentioned television sets are proceeds of a crime and the possession of the said items would subject the possessor to criminal and civil liability.

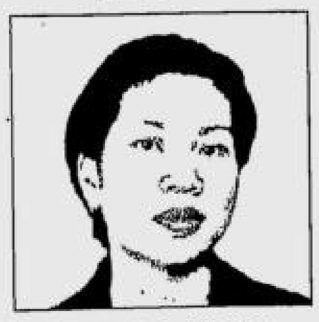
Any and all individuals liable shall be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

A P50,000.00 reward will be given to any person with information that will lead to the capture of perpetrators.

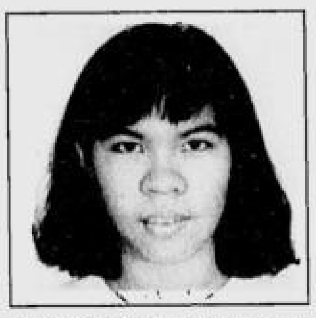
Please contact Ms. Roxas at 671-5955 if you have any information that will lead to the prosecution and conviction of the persons liable for the perpetration.

(PDI--May 4, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



CECILIA C. INIEGO



MARITESS LEE INIEGO

NOTICE is hereby being given to the public that a **WARRANT OF ARREST** has been issued against accused **CECILIA C. INIEGO** and **MARITESS LEE INIEGO**, whose pictures appear above, in connection with Criminal Case No. 01-194448 entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Cecilia C. Iniego, et. al" for SWINDLING pending before the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 20.

ANY INFORMATION on the whereabouts of the accused may be coursed through NITA at 5232847.

A REWARD awaits anyone who can provide information leading to the arrest of the above-named accused. All information given, including the identity of the informant, shall be treated with absolute confidentiality.

(PDI - May 4, 2003)

GASUL

PETRON

INVITES APPLICANTS FOR GASUL DEALERSHIPS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

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City of Manila	**Aurora**	**Romblon**
Pasig City	**Quirino**	**Quezon**
Quezon City	**Pampanga**	**Oriental Mindoro**
Mandaluyong City	**Bulacan**	

Interested applicants:

1) Must have the financial capacity to run a Gasul dealership.

2) Should preferably be a resident in the area being applied for.

3) Deadline for submission of application, May 12, 2003.

FOR PARTICULARS, WRITE OR CALL
Ms. Marissa U. Viray / Ms. Gemma L. Lorenzo
Luzon Retail Sales
E. Rodriguez Avenue
Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Tel Nos. 671-9817 to 671-9826
Fax Nos. 671-2684/89
E-Mail : muviray [illegible] petron.com / gllorenzo@petron.com

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY TEL. NO.: (632)712-3341 to 54 FAX NO.: (632)712-1110

INVITATION TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** wishes to announce that it will be holding a competitive bidding among all interested foreign rice suppliers and rice suppliers with foreign principals for the supply of MINIMUM ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (137,500) MT, Long Grain White Rice with an appropriated budget of US Dollars 28.5 Million, 5% brokens (Well-Milled), 15% brokens (Well-Milled) and 25% brokens (Reasonably Well Milled), of Vietnam, China, Thailand, Pakistan and Myanmar origin only packed in 50 kg net capacity, polypropylene bag.

All interested rice suppliers are required to submit price offers in US$/MT, CFR, FO Cash L/C basis, 180 days usance and 360 days usance L/C, 1 safe port, 1-2 safe berths for all the specifications above-mentioned with arrival periods as follows. Otherwise,, bids shall be considered non-responsive.

ARRIVAL PERIOD	VOLUME TO BE OFFERED (MT) % OF MAX. VOL. TO BE AWARDED
MAY/JUNE 2003	AT LEAST 50%
JULY 2003	BALANCE

Volume to be awarded per supplier per month of arrival shall be at BUYER's option but in no case shall aggregate volume of award exceed 137,500 MT for government suppliers with track record of supplying rice to the NFA within the last two years (2001 and 2002) and 25,000 MT for other suppliers with no track record with the NFA within the last two years (2001 and 2002). The above stipulated maximum volume may be increased depending on the actual quantity to be procured by NFA. Said volume will however be announced no later than the pre-bidding schedule.

Vessels to be utilized should have a maximum load capacity of 15,000 MT.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 15% of the value of the offered quantity in the form of Cashier's/Manager's Check issued by a reputable bank located in Metro Manila or stand-by irrevocable L/C callable on demand.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 15% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the Notice of Award in the form of Cashier's/Manager's Check issued by a reputable bank located in Metro Manila or stand-by irrevocable L/C callable on demand. Bid bond can be converted to Performance Bond.

Certificate of registration issued by the Bid and Awards Committee (BAC) is required from all prospective bidders. List of registration and eligibility requirements may be secured with the BAC - Secretariat, 5th Flr., Matimyas Bldg., National Food Authority, Quezon City starting April 28, 2003. Schedule of pre-bidding and bidding conferences shall be on May 12 and 15, 2003, 2:00 p.m. respectively at the NFA Penthouse Canteen. Opening of bids will start exactly at 2:00 p.m.

Suppliers who have been issued a Certificate of Registration (COR) for year 2003 by the NFA-BAC shall be eligible to join the bidding.

Terms of Reference and bid documents will be available starting April 28, 2003 after payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 5,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities or defects found therein and may accept bid/s most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ARTHUR C. YAP**
Administrator

(PDI - May 4, 2003)

LEYTE II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(LEYECO II)

Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 321-4292, 321-2809, 321-3710

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II) invites Contractors to prequalify and to bid for:

1. Conversion of old power plant to an office Building

Pre-qualification of bidder conference will be on **May 14, 2003** at LEYECO II office, Sagkahan District, Tacloban City at 2:00 in the afternoon. The following documents have to be presented to wit:

a. Letter of intent
b. Original Contractors license
c. Business Permit
d. SEC Registration
e. Copy of Latest Financial Statement and latest income tax return

Bidding documents shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00). Opening of bids would be on **May 23, 2003**. Time and venue will be discussed during the pre-bid conference. Sealed offers must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid offered.

LEYECO II reserves the right to reject any to waive any formality thereof and to accept only such bids are advantageous to the cooperative, the decision of the cooperative, is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. FERNAN PAUL R. TAN**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--May 4, 2003)

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Fax: (662) 236-9829
www.giathailand.com

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(NORSAMELCO)
Brgy. Magsaysay, Bobon, Northern Samar
CEL No. 09173619744

INVITATION TO BID

NORSAMELCO invites interested bidders to bid for supply and delivery of steel poles, transformers, conductors and various line hardware intended for construction of distribution line under NEA subsidy projects.

1) Steel Poles, Hot Dip Galvanized, wall thickness 3 mm.
   a. 30ft / class 3 — 242 pcs
   b. 35ft / class 3 — 259 pcs
   c. 40ft / class 3 — 20 pcs
2) Treated Wood Pole CCA (Radiata Pines)
   a. 30ft / class 4 — 30 pcs
   b. 35ft / class 4 — 156 pcs
   c. 40ft / class 4 — 10 pcs
3) Conductors Bare ACSR no. 2 (Sparrow) — 146,178 mtrs
4) Conductor, Service Drop Wire No. 2 (duplex) — 10,000 mtrs
5) Transformer, single bushing, 7.62kv / 240v with H.V. tap changer, brand new
   a. 25kva (core loss – 59 w; cu. loss – 289 w) — 13 unit
   b. 15kva (core loss – 34 w; cu. loss – 226 w) — 7 unit
   c. 10kva (core loss – 28 w; cu. loss – 121 w) — 1 unit
6) Various pole line hardware, Hot Dip Galvanized

Interested bidders are required to submit letter of intent with latest company profile before securing bid forms. Bid forms can be purchased after the payment of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) non-refundable. Pre-bid conference is scheduled on **May 15, 2003** at 10:00 a.m. Opening of bid is on **May 26, 2003**. All bidders are required to submit bid bond amounting to 5% of the total bid price. Delivery of materials shall be 15 days after upon receipt of P.O.

NORSAMELCO PBAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders with reason from doing so. NORSAMELCO PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify bids nor deem it guarantee that the award will be made.

NORSAMELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids duly received, waive any minor defect in the proposal, accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to coop.

(Sgd.) **HENRY C. BANJAWAN**
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) **RICARDO P. LARGO**
General Manager

(PDI – May 4 & 5, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for **3,200,000 packs of Powdered Full Cream Milk** with a budget of P16,000,000.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **April 28-May 9, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on May 9, 2003, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **May 23, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary

(PDI–April 27 & May 4, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE (COBAC)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY / ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category "B" and registration of "Medium A" for Building and Industrial Plant for the project Repair/ Renovation of DOH Convention Hall, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The dates to be followed are:

1.	Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License)	May 5 & 6, 2003
2.	Submission of dully accomplished Eligibility documents	May 12, 2003
3.	Posting of eligible contractors	May 19, 2003
4.	Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	May 22 & 23, 2003
5.	Pre-Bid Conference	2:00 P.M. May 30, 2003
6.	Submission of Bids (Deadline)	2:00 P.M. June 16, 2003
7.	Opening of Bids	2:00 P.M. June 16, 2003

All of the above activities shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Chairman, Building No. 3, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P5,000.00).

DOH-COBAC reserve the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by DOH-COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government. DOH-COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) **USEC. ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI–April 27 & May 4, 2003)

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3 H&L/42 Rosary St Annex 30, Betterliving *LA 259 / FA 252*
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LAS PINAS

4 2 Sty Thse/Lot 15 Aranda Cmpd Talon 1 *LA 52 / FA 58*
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5 2 Sty Thse/Lot 3 Aranda Cmpd Talon 1 *LA 55 / FA 58*
Min Bid - P740,000

6 2 Sty Thse/Lot 10 Aranda Cmpd Talon 1 *LA 50 / FA 58*
Min Bid - P740,000

7 L36-C, Sta Fe St, Arlel Thomes, Ph IV, Talon-3 *LA 60 / FA 82*
Min Bid - P864,000

8 Thse/ Unit 7, Emma Yuhico St, Union Villes Thms BF Resort Talon 2 *LA 69.7 / FA 101*
Min Bid - P 1,512,000

9 Thse/U-13 C Union Villas Thms/ *LA 57.6/FA 94*
Min Bid - P 1,442,000

10 H&L/L10 B26 Ubas Golden Acres, Pamplona/ *LA 240/FA 157*
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11 3 Sty Thse/ Lot 1-A Alibangbang cor Bakawan Sts Veterans Vill Proj 7/*LA 53.1/FA 166.5*
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12 2 Sty Thse/U-14-E Paraluman Thms,Paluman St Isadora Hills Subd Holy Spirit/*LA 40/FA 75*
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13 Res Thse-3 Sty/ #65-C M'pang-Akit St,V Luna Piñahan/*LA 61/FA 150*
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Min Bid - P2,997,000

15 Thse/Unit A-8 Baler Luxery Townhomes, Baler *LA 129 / FA 258*
Min Bid - P4,068,000

16 4 Sty H&L/ 394-A Sangandaan,Novaliches *LA 218 / FA 721*
Min Bid - P4,100,000

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17 Lot/L16 B1, Mla South woods Res Estate,Baybay,Cmona/*LA 1,224*
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22 Lot/L127 B3-A,Almond St / *LA 459*
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25 Lot/L5 B3-I, Dona A Reyes St / *LA – 560*
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26 Lot/L6 B3-I, Dona A Reyes St / *LA 624*
Min Bid - P1,529,000

27 Lot/L19 B3-I, Circle-Jasmine St / *LA 713*
Min Bid - P1,747,000

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28 Condo/Unit 6-A, 6/F T-Tower Condominium, Burgos St / *FA 75*
Min Bid - P1,551,000

PASIG

29 Condo/Unit 2802, AIC Gold Tower, Ortigas Ctr *FA 187 02* ***
Min Bid - P6,900,000

*** [illegible] estate taxes unpaid by developer.

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30 Lot/L93 B7 Caliraya Lumban / *LA 886*
Min Bid - P354,000

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32 2 Sty Thse/ Unit 2 *LA 54 / FA 55*
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33 2 Sty Thse/ Unit 4 *LA 54 / FA 55*
Min Bid - P769,000

34 2 Sty Thse/ Unit 1 *LA 107 / FA 85*
Min Bid - P887,000

35 Res Apt/ Rd Lot 4 cor L 51 Villa Olympia VI, San Pedro *LA 210 / FA 322.01*
Min Bid - P1,703,000

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Min Bid - P421,000

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Min Bid - P2,241,000

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52 Lot 8-C-2-B, Santolan cor Tolentino Sts *LA 353 / TFA 432*
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53 Lot/L10 B5 / LA 40
54 Lot/L20 B5 / LA 40
55 Lot/L21 B5 / LA 40
56 Lot/L22 B5 / LA 40
57 Lot/L23 B5 / LA 40
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59 Lot/L25 B5 / LA 40
60 Lot/L26 B5 / LA 40
61 Lot/L27 B5 / LA 40
62 Lot/L28 B5 / LA 40

RESIDENTIAL

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63 H&L/L7 B9 Micah St Sarmiento Twnvile Pob SJDM / *LA 80 / FA 48*
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66 Thse/U-A 3rd St Gruar Subd / *LA 69 / FA70*
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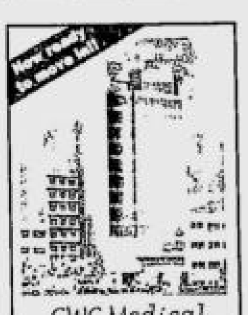
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Jesus King of Mercy, we trust in you.
(Say this 9 times a day for 9 consecutive days. Prayer will be answered on or before the 9th day, for this novena prayer has never been known to fail. Publish this once your wish is granted) Erlinda M.

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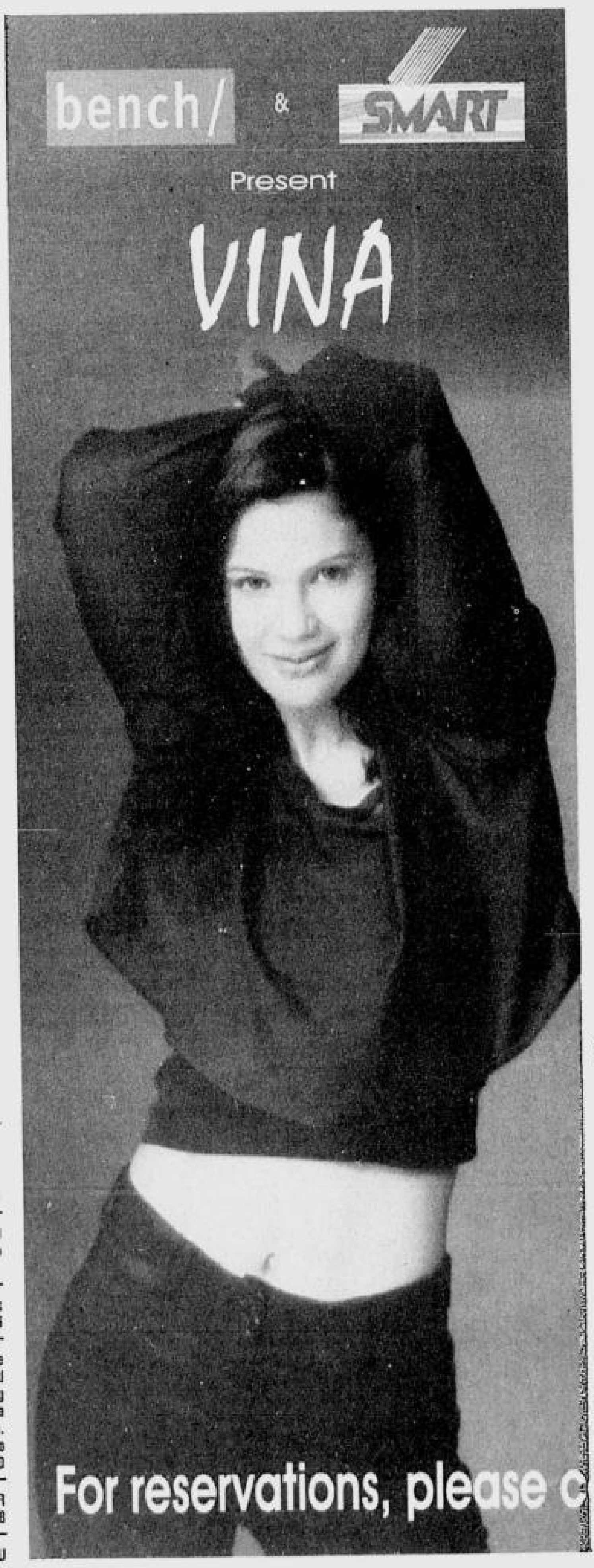

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"I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing".
Genesis 12:2

Our Dearest Mama,

Aida Valdés y Abad Santos

(April 27, 1926 to May 1, 2003)

Peacefully joined our Lord on the 1st of May, 2003 at the age of 77.

Her loving husband Amb. Carlos J. Valdés; Children, Gabby,.Butch, Nena, Binky, Chona, Johnny, Teri, Barry, Gina, Benjie (†), and Regina; Children-in-law, Pamela, Jorge, Vic and Ricky; Grandchildren, Bea, Martin, Marga and Pilar, Itos, Anton, Angela, Stella, Joaquin, Chinito, Karissa and Kiana; Carlo, Gino, Paolo and Marco; Augusto; Andrea, Isabel and Roman; Ian, Franco, Benji and Ida; Karl; Quintin and Lope; Great-grandchildren, Dino and Nicolo, and the rest of her family, request pious readers to remember Mama in their prayers, for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, New Manila, Q.C., Holy Mass at 7:00 P.M.
Funeral Mass will be on Monday, May 5, 2003 at 9:00 A.M.
Cremation will follow and thereafter her remains will be transferred to our San Juan residence.

"Behold my servant whom I have chosen my beloved in whom I delight".
Matthew 12:18

REYNALDO ANGUSTIA REGALADO

of San Juan, Metro Manila and Catanduanes

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 2, 2003
at the age of 65.

His loving wife **NONETTE CASTILLO REGALADO**; son **JOMMEL**; daugther **GRACE**; son-in-law **RENATO ANTIFICIO**; grandchildren **RENNEA PRECIOUS & BRIAN ANGELO**; brothers & sisters and in-laws **RENEE & YOLLY, BALLY & VILMA, CIELO & ALLEN, JULIAN JR., LUCILLE & JUN, RAMON & BING**; nephews & nieces; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 11, 2003 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park.

GERARDA *"NENA"* MENDOZA *VDA. DE* DURAN

of Sorsogon City, San Juan, M.M. and San Jose, California

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 22, 2003 at the age of 81.

Her loving husband **Jaime** (†); children **Mely & Ron Deaño, Jimmy & Norie Aquilizan, Freddie & Rosa Gregorio, Leny & Tony Sundiang, Margie & Rene Seco, Gerry & Rina Flores, Calen & Clem Samson, Naida & Antonio Rivera, Carol & Lawrence Phillips**; grandchildren **Kristine & Joel Abueg, Suzanne, Jaye & Mon Caraan, James, Jasmine, Alla, Arjay, Paul, Lara, Liza, Ryan, Felicity, Anton, Zean, Zeena, Austin, Jessica**; and great grandson **Michael**; brothers & sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will arrive in Manila on Sunday, May 4, 2003 and will lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 7, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the 9:00 a.m. celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

EMILIA M. LAZARO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 2, 2003 at the age of 69.

Her bereaved husband Asi, children and grandchildren Emma & Alex - Noel, Christine; Onie & Jun - Kristine, Kate, JR, JT; Cora & Raul - Rigel, Cyril, Paulo; Lito & Vicky - JV, Arvin, JL; Larry & Amy - Lea, Julian, Mary Kaye; Milton & Sally - Ghel, Gelo, Khamille Erica; Peachie & Arnel - Janarra; Art & Grace - CJ; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at M.H. del Pilar St., Antipolo City.

Interment will be announced later.

Condolences from Our Lady of Peace Memorial Services, Inc.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

Psalm 21:15

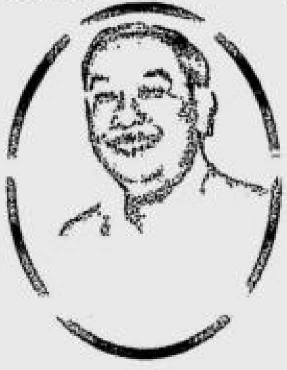
In remembrance of a visionary leader,
physician and professor,

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA COMMUNITY

expresses deep sorrow over the passing of its beloved
former chancellor

ALFRED0 T. RAMIREZ, MD

July 19, 1938 - April 13, 2003



A SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE
will be held at the PGH Chapel, May 7, 2003, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

He could have quietly endured the vicissitudes of affliction, but he decided to devote his last years sharing his wisdom and talents with the university he loved.

"My soul finds rest in God alone;
My salvation comes from Him;
He alone is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."
Psalm 62:1

Thank You

FROM THE FAMILY OF

ALFREDO T. RAMIREZ

JULY 19, 1938 – APRIL 13, 2003

THERE WERE SOME WHO VISITED WHEN HE WAS STILL WITH US
AND MANY WHO PRAYED FOR HIS RECOVERY
YET MANY WHO CALLED TO LET HIM KNOW THEY CARED
NOW HE'S LEFT US AND GONE TO REST

MANY CAME TO REMEMBER HIM
RELATIVES, CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, CLASSMATES
FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES AND PATIENTS
PHI KAPPA MU BRODS, UPSILONIANS, ATENEANS
YOU MAY NOT HAVE WRITTEN IN OUR GUEST BOOK
BUT HE KNOWS... WE KNOW.. AND WE ARE GRATEFUL

HE MAY HAVE HURT YOU... NO INTENTION ON HIS PART
YOU MAY HAVE HURT HIM... HE HAS LONG FORGIVEN YOU
FOR HE WAS A GENTLE SOUL
NO HARSH WORDS EVER CAME FROM HIM
A LONG DRAWN SIGH. THE ONLY SIGN OF HIS HURT

PLEASE REMEMBER HIM IN YOUR PRAYERS

FREDDIE, MY PAPA, ATR

Atty. Antonio M. de las Alas, Jr.

peacefully joined his Creator on April 29, 2003.

His loving wife **Gloria**; children **Adriel & Merce**, **Alvin**, **Bena & Noni**, **Edec & Sharon**, **Darius & Jenny**, and **Anthony**; grandchildren **Ariana**, **AJ**, **Kyla**, and brothers, sister, in-laws **Bani & Linda**, **Ernie & Tessie**, **Jim & Len**, **Leland & Lucy**, **Reuben & Dinda**, **Gil & Ching**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the de las Alas ancestral home in Butong, Taal, Batangas. Interment will be on May 6, 12:00 p.m. at the Basilica of Taal, Batangas.

DEATH NOTICES

FELIPE VILLANUEVA
VILLA-REAL III
Joined his Creator on May 1, 2003
Body lies in state at Filipinas Funeral Home, Batangas City.
Interment will be on May 7, 2003

ALICIA G. BARTOLO
Joined her Creator on April 28, 2003
Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon city, Chapel B-8, 2nd flr. South Wing Bldg.
Interment will be on May 6, 2003

"Happy are those who have
died in the Lord; Let them
rest from their labors for
their good deeds go with them."
Revelations 14:13

In sacred memory
of

Cíndy V. Elízalde

loving wife of **Santi** and beloved parent to
their dogs, **Gunner Special** and **Tracy**,
passed away at her home
on May 2, 2003 at 12:45 p.m.

Her parents, **Noe** and **Josie Villasin**
Her sisters and brother, their spouses and their children
Gerry, **Nancy** and **Mari Manlangit**
Emily and **Noelle Villasin**
Gerard, **Malou** and **Luis Miguel Villasin**
Renee and **Chloe Villasin**

ask you to pray for her, that she may share
enternal joy in heaven.

Services will be held at St. Elias Hall, Carmelite Monastery,
Mabolo, Cebu City.
The Mass of the Resurrection will be on May 5, 2003, 3:00 PM
at the Carmelite Monastery Chapel followed
by the burial of her remains
at the Cebu Memorial Park, Banilad, Cebu City.

In lieu of flowers, please send your donation to:
The Cancer Care Network of Cebu Foundation, Inc.
Eduardo J. Aboitiz Foundation Bldg.
Vicente Sotto Memorial
Medical Center Compound
R. Rodriguez St., Cebu City

JESUS CASTAÑEDA BARREIRO

December 13, 1930 – May 1, 2003

So it came to pass that the Lord has beckoned to join Him in eternal life in the early hours of May 1, 2003 in the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A.

Jess is survived by his wife **Gloria Tumaneng**; his children **Stephen**, **Francis**, and **Triccia**; grandchildren **Stephanie**, **Michael** and **Gabriel**; his siblings **Guadalupe**, **Alfredo, Jr.** and **Sr. Irene, I.C.M.**; his sisters-in-law **Simple**, **Tita** and **Zeny**; nephews and nieces.

Memorial Mass is set today, May 4, 2003. Please join the family in prayers.

An obituary with a picture can be
a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBITUARY

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
➊ Copy of Death Certificate; ➋ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

Bank Car and Service Vehicles
Invitation to Bid

Description	Plate No.	Bid Price
1993 Toyota Corona EX Saloon (M/T)	TKL 761	180,000
1993 Toyota Corolla XL (M/T)	TKW 346	139,500
1994 Toyota Tamaraw FX Dsl (M/T)	TPM 602	153,000
1996 Honda Civic V-TEC (M/T)	UNL 408	252,000
1996 Honda Civic 1.5 Lxi (M/T)	UHS 640	234,000
2000 Honda Civic Vti 1.6 (A/T)	WPN 228	432,000
2001 Kia Rio Sedan (M/T)	WLC 171	288,000
1996 Yamaha RS 100T	PL 9956	31,500
1996 Yamaha DT 125	PL 3539	37,800
* *Units can be inspected at the basement of 1st e-Bank Building, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City*		
1994 Toyota Tamaraw FX Gas (M/T)	LCP 920	157,500
* *Unit can be inspected at 1st e-Bank Gen San Br. Santiago Blvd. Cor. J.P. Laurel St., General Santos City.*		
2000 Toyota Revo GL	KCH 341	413,000
* *Unit can be inspected at 1st e-Bank CDO-Aguinaldo Br. J.R. Borja St. Cor. Aguinaldo, Cagayan de Oro City*		
1995 Toyota Corolla XL	UBD 514	126,000
* *Unit can be inspected at 1st e-Bank Tacloban Br. Zamora St., Tacloban City*		

** Final bidding schedule is on May 15, 2003.

** Bids should be submitted not later than 11:00 a.m. of May 15, 2003.

** Bidding rules and procedures may be obtained from the bank.

For details, please call: 815-85-36. Look for Al

1st Bank

ROPOA Dept.
1st e-Bank Tower 8737, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) of the Republic of the Philippines invites interested parties to submit offers for the National Government-owned parcels of land in **INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA, INC. (ISM)**, with an aggregate area of 48,832 square meters, together with the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, located at the ISM compound at Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City, on an **"AS-IS, WHERE-IS"** basis.

The properties are being offered as one package at an Indicative Price of PESOS: ONE BILLION NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND (P1,981,708,000).

The negotiated sale offering will be held on June 10, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

An Information Package consisting of the **Guidelines on Negotiated Sale (GNS)** and the **Asset Specific Catalogue (ASC)** on ISM shall be made available on May 6, 2003 to parties who register their interest and pay a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One Thousand (P1,000), Philippine Currency.

For details, please call the Marketing Department at telephone numbers 818-4733; 892-2145; fax no. 818-0906.

PMO reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all offers related to this invitation.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for 1,031,000 tables of Albendazole (generic, 400mg/tab) with a budget of P6,062,280.00

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **April 28 - May 12, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 12, 2003**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **May 26, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI – April 27 & May 4, 2003)

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

TRANSCO INTEGRATED TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

In order to provide new graduates of engineering and technical/vocational courses the opportunity to acquire actual experience in the field of electrical power transmission, the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), created by virtue of Republic Act 9136 (the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001) is a government-owned and controlled corporation that has assumed the electrical transmission functions in the major Philippine grids, announces the offering of its Integrated Traineeship Program, specifically the cadetship and Apprenticeship Programs for year 2003.

- Cadetship Program - on the job training for a period of six (6) months program for graduates of Electrical and Electronics & Communications engineering courses.
- Apprenticeship Program - on the job training for a period of six (6) months for graduates of technical/vocational courses (Technician, Electrician, Mechanic, Lineman).

Qualification/Requirements:

1. Not more than twenty five (25) years of age
2. Residents of Metro Manila
3. Must pass the TransCo psychological examination for Apprenticeship Program
4. Must pass the TransCo psychological and technical examinations for Cadetship Program
5. Official Transcript of Records (no failing grades in major subjects)

Interested applicants should personally apply and accomplish application form at Human Resource Training Division, Human Resources Department, Ground Floor, Power Center Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City from **May 5 to 16, 2003** at 1:30 p.m.

For Cadetship Program, only those who pass the psychological examination will be qualified to take the technical examination scheduled on may 31, 2003 (Saturday).

HUMAN RESOURCE TRAINING DIVISION
Human Resources Department
Power Center Building, Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone No. 922-5873

(PDI - May 4, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
12th Judicial Region
BRANCH 19
Isulan, Sultan Kudarat

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGE OF NAME OF DANIEL JOSE MARIA C. BARILEA, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS JOSE MARIE BARILEA AND DANIEL MARI G. BARILEA, ALIAS JOMARI.

SPL. PROC. NO. 311

DANIEL JOSE MARIA C. BARILEA,
Petitioner.

– versus –

THE CITY AND LOCAL REGISTRARS OF DUMAGUETE CITY AND ISULAN, SULTAN KUDARAT, respectively,
Respondents.

x - x

ORDER

A verified petition has been filed before this Court by the petitioner Daniel Jose Maria C. Barilea, praying that after due notice and hearing thereof, an Order be issued authorizing the change of his first name, from DANIEL JOSE MARIA C. Barilea to DANIEL MARI C. Barilea, as well as, the change of his first name as entered in his Certificate of Marriage, from JOSE MARI Barilea to DANIEL MARI Barilea.

Finding the said petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the petition be set for hearing to May 13, 2003 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning and 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, in the sala of this Court at the Hall of Justice, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, on which date, time and place, any interested person is hereby ordered to appear and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the last publication of which should not be later than May 7, 2003.

Let copies of this Order and of the Petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, as well as the respondents, and the same be posted on the Bulletin Board in the premises of this Court.

SO ORDERED.

Given this 19th day of March 2003, at Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GERMAN M. MALCAMPO
Regional Trial Judge

(PDI–May 2, 4 & 6, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **CEBU ROYAL CONSTRUCTION & DEV. CO.** has changed its business name to **ROYAL CONSTRUCTION & DEV. CORP.** as per SEC Registration No. C200200032 dated Jan. 15, 2002.

(PDI--May 4, 2003)

DTI
TRADE & INDUSTRY

DTI-BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade Industry - Bids and Awards Committee hereby invites SERVICE CORPORATIONS to bid for the Janitorial and Allied Services requirement of the DTI and its attached agencies. The estimated budget for this is **FIFTEEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (Php 15,774,000.00)** for one year.

Only contractors duly registered as a Corporation with the Securities and Exchange Commission and with at least P5 Million capitalization may be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening.

Instructions to bidders and bid documents maybe obtained from May 5-9, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **TWO THOUSAND PESOS (Php 2,000.00)** only from **MR. CLAUDIO H. AVERILLA** at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Submission of eligibility documents - May 12-17, 2003 at same address.

A pre-bidding conference will be held on May 26, 2003 at 1:30 p.m., 4th Floor Conference Room, Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Submission and opening of bid documents will be held on June 10, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at the same address.

For inquiries, please call **MR. CLAUDIO H. AVERILLA**, BAC Secretariat, at telephone numbers 890-4867 and 897-5672.

The DTI-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

By Authority of the Secretary of Trade and Industry.

(Sgd.) ARMIN B. RAQUEL-SANTOS
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--April 27 & May 4, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

02 May 2003

EMERGENCY PURCHASE
(Canvass No. 14 – Request for Quotation)

In view of the threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and in accordance with Executive Order No. 201, Section 53 (b) of Republic Act No. 9184 and Section 439 of the General Auditing and Accounting Manual (GAAM), the Department of Health is urgently in need of the following **Hospital Equipment:**

54 units Blood Pressure Apparatus (Stand Type)
27 units Laryngoscope for Adult
27 units Laryngoscope for Pedia
54 units Oxygen Gauge with Humidifier
27 units Portable Pulse Oximeter
27 units Portable Suction Apparatus
54 units Stethoscope (adult)
27 units Stretcher
27 units Ventilator, Adult and Pedia
27 units X-ray Machine, 300 mA mobile high frequency
54 units Exhaust Fan

Interested suppliers are enjoined to submit their best price for the above requirements. Quotation forms, containing the detailed specifications, and other information may be secured on **May 6, 2003** from the Procurement Division, Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), 2/F Bldg. No. 26 Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, tel. no (632) 743-83-01 local 3626 and 3627.

Price Quotations must include both unit and total prices, typewritten in both words and figures and placed in a sealed envelope together with the following documents:

1. Certified True Copy of DTI/SEC Registration
2. Certified True Copy of Mayor's Permit
3. Certified True Copy of Certificate of Accreditation

Price Quotations, containing the detailed specifications, with each page duly signed by the authorized company representative and the above-listed documents must be submitted not later than 10 AM **May 9, 2003** at the Procurement Division. Opening of sealed envelopes shall commence at 10 AM of **May 9, 2003.**

Upon receipt of the DOH Purchase Order, the company is required to deliver the goods at the DOH warehouse within a month.

Any purchase arising from the request will be subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. It should be noted that receipt of a particular quotation does not in any way obligate the DOH to award any or any part of the items quoted therein.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation and to annul the process and reject all quotations at any time prior to award, without incurring any liability to the affected supplier(s) or any obligation to inform the same on the grounds of such action.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 3 & 4, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The following persons are hereby notified of their overdue payments on their installments for the purchase of the following real estate properties, namely:

NAME	PROPERTY	PAYMENT(S) DUE
Rosalinda Fernandez	Neopolitan, PI B121 L18 TCT#36403	3,846,458.86
John/Leriza Calalang	Neopolitan, PIV B37 L7 TCT# N-193917	6,108,456.60
Adorable Paner/Ronald Villasenor	Neopolitan, PVII B205 L7 TCT#37837	6,684,468.52

The above-named-persons are hereby given a grace period of two (2) months from publication of this notice within which to pay the above-mentioned sums to DBH Development Corporation at the 6th Floor, Renaissance Tower D, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Failure to pay the above amounts shall result in the cancellation of the Contracts to Sell by DBH Development Corporation

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away. visit us at: www.jobmarketonline.com

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City. Tels. 747-8590, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1700
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan. Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2120; (0917) 434-0970
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu. Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels. 231-0721, 231-3102
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City. Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1256
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City. Tels. 740-2603, 781-3705, 781-3088; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City. Tels. (047) 222-3005, (047) 811-1088, (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City. Tel. 891-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila. Tels. 712-5100, 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
985 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City. Tels. 416-3231; 4162373
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
28 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City. Tels. 942-6044; 476-1177
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila. Tels. 2812983; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City. Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City. Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 87 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City. Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila. Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote, Alabang, Las Pinas. Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
885 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City. Tels. 890-3550; 899-0191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011. Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0268; (0917) 895-0003
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite. Tels. (046) 471-3375, 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila. Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal. Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City. Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur. Tel. 722-2730. Cell (0917) 5680136, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Polo St., Project 2, Quezon City. Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila. Tels. 711-8031 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2627
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City. Tels. 749-3606 to 11; 712-3001, 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque. Tels. 820-1592, 825-0947; 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City. Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite. Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1878
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City. Tels. 885-1011 to 10
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City. Tels. 941-3198 to 98, 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal. Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209, 682-0210
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
Tels. 283-1613, 273-8922
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City. Tels. (075) 515-5960, 522-8783, (0917) 520-5001
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867; 714-0868
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK
CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870. Tel. No. 697-0762, 697-0026, 650-7426; Fax : 697-2764
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
PRIME MEMORIAL CHAPELS
200 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City. Tels. 427-8412, 4278403
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City: Tels. 831-1204, Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 828-9082, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City. Tel. Nos. 843-8838 30. Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Telefax 724-4130, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City. Tels. 852-8226, 852-7204
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-18 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila. Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Tels. 372-5044, 410-9286/87
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City of San Pablo

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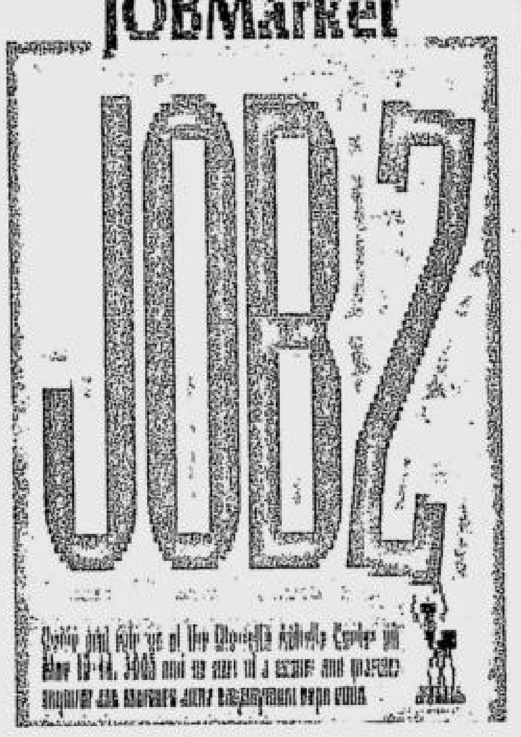

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The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance from **May 3, 2003 to May 20, 2003** at the PBAC Secretariat Unit (BSU), PPD upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00)*. In order to secure the documents, interested bidders should primarily submit a **Letter of Intent** including the names of at least five (5) authorized representatives of the company that will handle the above-mentioned project to the BSU **not later than 5:00 p.m., May 19, 2003.**

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Three reasons why firms should set up a foundation

By Niña Rica Marie L. Terol
Contributor

THE NUMBER of corporations that have devoted substantial resources to philanthropic work is quite small. The League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) lists only at least 50 members and many of these are connected with the big industry players, such as ABS-CBN, San Miguel, Ayala, Metrobank, Coke and others. It seems that while corporate social responsibility has been gaining popularity in the realm of Big Business, small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) have yet to latch on to it.

There may be many reasons—most of them economic—why SMEs have not been practicing CSR as eagerly as their corporate counterparts. But, according to Atty. Luis Pangilinan Jr., who spoke at a recently concluded seminar by the LCF, there are also compelling grounds for these enterprises to go beyond donations and book drives and establish their own corporate foundations:

1. Establishing a foundation that is separate from the business entity will enable the 'mother corporation' to focus on doing well (earning profits) while still doing good (engaging in CSR work through the foundation). A business is created mainly to generate profit and value for its shareholders; meanwhile, a corporate foundation is established to generate and redistribute resources for development work. While a single corporation can usually handle these functions simultaneously, it needs considerably different skills, structures and systems to do them well. Having a corporate foundation will enable businesses to allocate and use its resources more efficiently and also streamline its operations and staff functions. At the end of the day, it would be more prudent to unburden your marketing or PR staff of the responsibilities that can otherwise go to a "differently skilled" foundation officer so that she can focus on her core functions.

2. A corporate foundation becomes a visible and tangible symbol of the mother corporation's dedication to philanthropy and creates goodwill in the community where the business operates. It has often been said that one "cannot run a healthy business in an unhealthy society" so companies have literally been cleaning their own backyards to provide safer working environments for their staff and boost employee morale and productivity. While some corporations have been successful in managing community relations on their own, a corporate foundation can institutionalize and ensure the sustainability of its own programs and structures. Because it is a separate entity from the mother corporation, it is less prone to sudden changes in direction that may be brought about by a change of leadership or business strategy. In the long run, a corporate foundation may be more effective than its parent company in fulfilling their philanthropic aims.

3. A corporate foundation can provide its mother corporation a tax benefit while helping the poor and marginalized. A corporate foundation can extend tax benefits to its mother corporations on two levels. First, its initial funding usually comes from its mother corporation, which enjoys a deduction on taxable income depending on the amount and nature of this donation. Second, if the corporate foundation has been certified by

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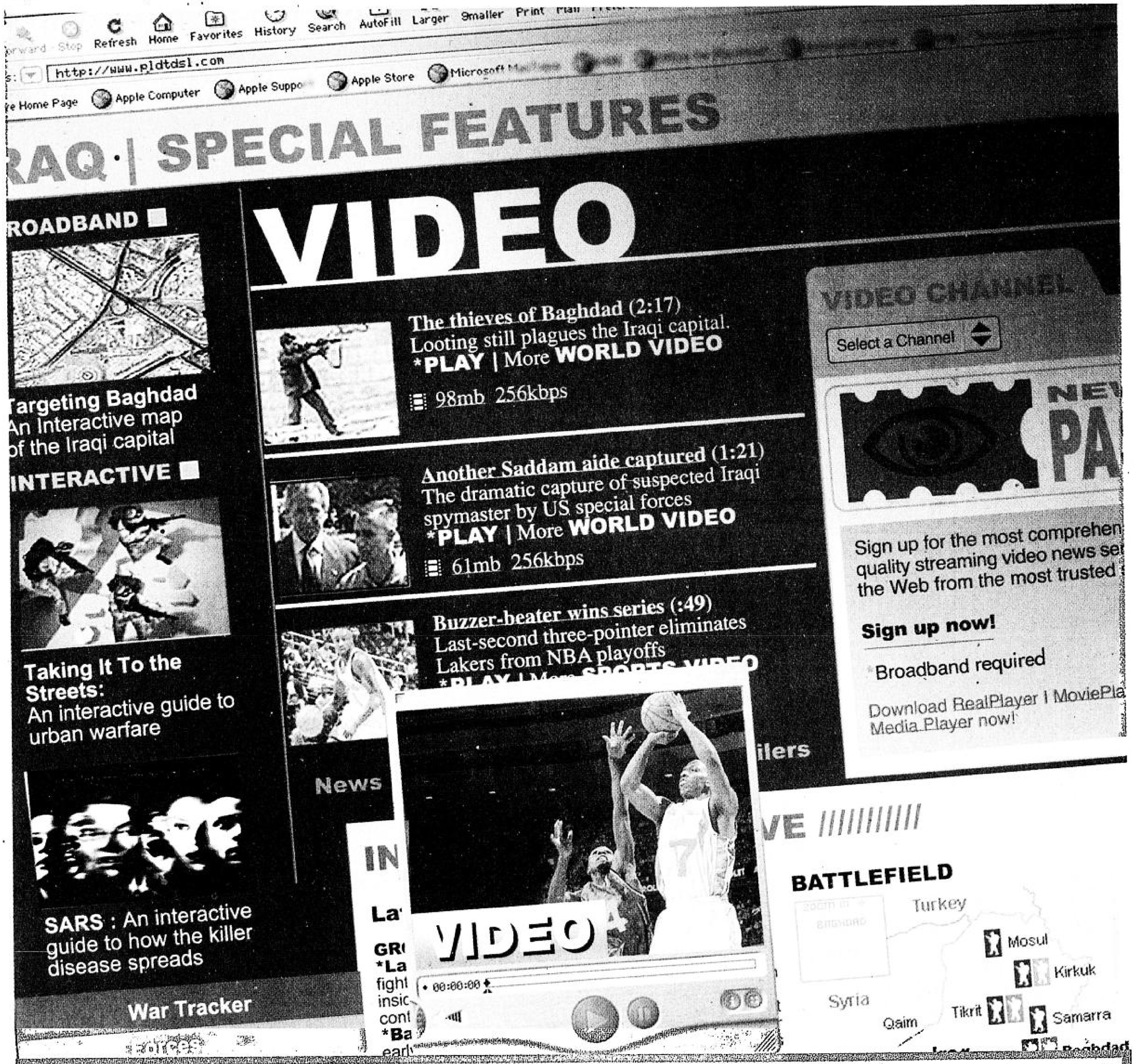
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

GUTIERREZ-BEKTAS wedding at NBC Tent last March. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Yilmaz denies he has another wife; defends father

C2

People mag names '50 Most Beautiful'

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Yilmaz denies he has another wife; defends dad

By Leah Salterio

RUFFA Gutierrez's husband Yilmaz Bektas finally broke his silence on the rumors that he has a love child and that his father was involved in oil smuggling and drug-related cases in Turkey.

Yilmaz also stressed that he had married no other woman before his wedding to Ruffa last month in Manila.

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"I had a daughter in 1999 from my ex-fiancée, Selen," Yilmaz admitted in his statement. He said he registered the child "under my family name."

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The case is presently being heard and has not been concluded yet. Our legal councilors will describe all details related to these affairs thereafter."

Yilmaz added in defense of his father: "Regardless of what my father does for a living, even if I would approve of his profession or not, I still feel great honor that he is my own true blood. Every individual is responsible for himself and has the opportunity in making the right choices in life.

"Every child wishes his/her father to be the king of the country of happiness, but reality is not comprised of the wishes alone... As a father has no chance making his choice of his child, a child also has no chance making the choice of his father."

Yilmaz also said he is rethinking his plans of investing in the Philippines.

"As a young, successful entrepreneur, I want to reconsider matters related in investing with other entrepreneurs who are supporting me in the Philippines," he said. "I am not a showbiz personality but rather a businessman who (plans) to employ thousands of people with my investments."

Yilmaz also chastised and warned the media in his wife's country, saying the rumors swirling around him were "untrue" and "speculative." He said the reports about him and his family were "made for ... rating purposes" and "hurt the human honor."

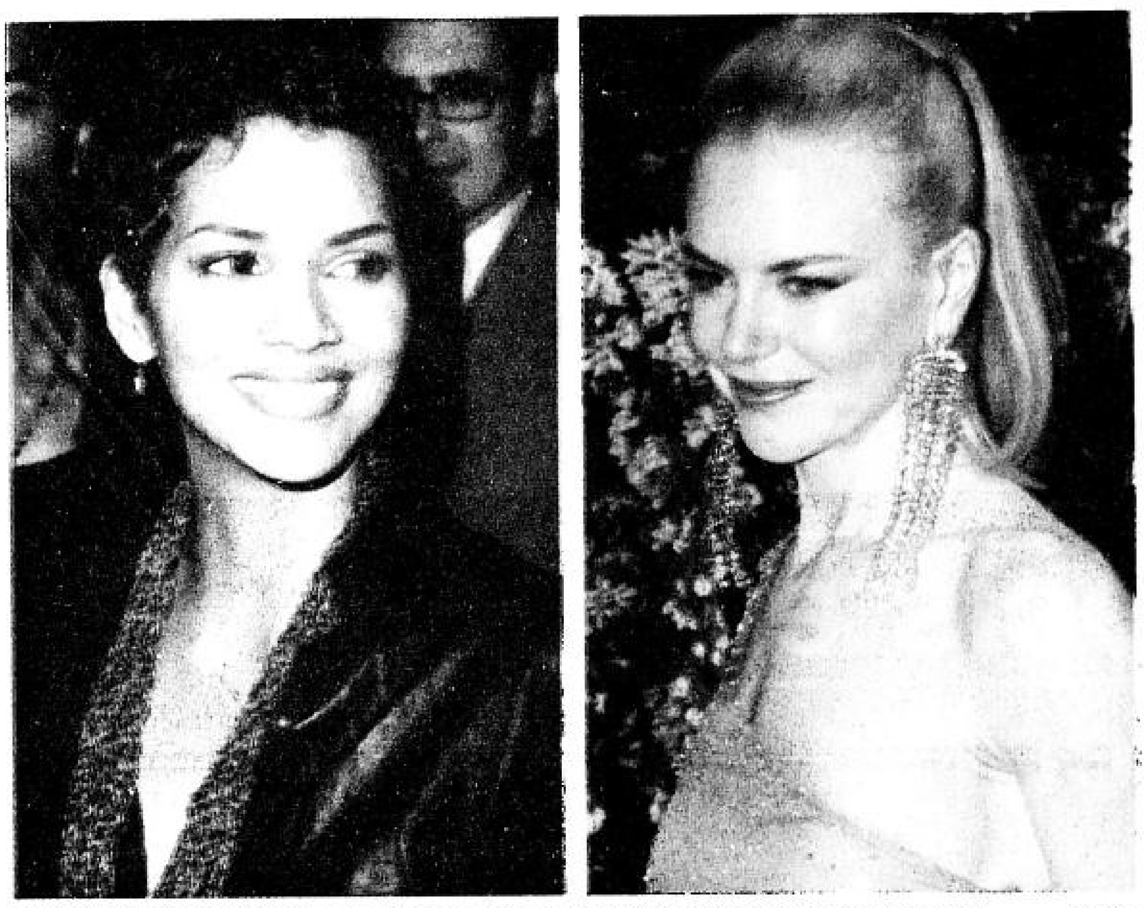
"I also hereby ensure everybody that we will not hesitate to use our legal rights in this respect through our legal councilors," he said.

UNION OF TWO CULTURES. Yilmaz Bektas appeals to Filipinos to pray that he and Ruffa Gutierrez may have a happy married life and a healthy baby.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Yilmaz added in his peculiar style: "I am kindly requesting the Philippine people and media to bless my marriage with Ruffa, which integrated two different cultures (and) destroyed all the taboos.

"Please pray that we may have a happy life and a healthy baby," the offended husband concluded in his statement.



BEAUTY AND TALENT. Oscar best actress winners Halle Berry (left) and Nicole Kidman.

REUTERS

People magazine names world's '50 Most Beautiful'

SHOW STOPPERS

NEW YORK—It's official, Halle Berry, the actress whose star has risen in recent years thanks to an Oscar win and a stint as a Bond girl, is beautiful.

People magazine named the "50 Most Beautiful People in the World" in its latest issue, which hits newsstands on Friday, with Berry's face on the cover.

The Oscar-winning actress made the list for the seventh time, while fellow Oscar-winning actress Julia Roberts made the list for an eighth time, the magazine said.

First on the list of men was Ashton Kutcher of "That '70s Show," who described himself in the magazine as "a guy's guy... I don't comb my hair unless I have to."

Also listed were actresses Nicole Kidman, singer Britney Spears, who said her beauty secret was "lots and lots of sleep," actress Susan Sarandon and her daughter, actress Eva Amurri, actresses Catherine Zeta-Jones, Salma Hayek, Jennifer Aniston, Queen Latifah, Julianne Moore, 16-year-old twins Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen and singer Norah Jones.

Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of Elvis whose debut album has just been released, was also on the list and admitted to little beauty discipline.

"I smoke, I don't do yoga ... I bite the hell out of my nails," Presley said.

Also on the list were Hollywood couple Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, actors George Clooney, Hugh Jackman, Daniel Day-Lewis, Peter Krause, Colin Farrell, Leonardo DiCaprio, professional basketball player Tony Parker, flamenco dancer Farruquito and jockey Gary Stevens.

Comedic actor and writer Steve Martin was also named as a hunk, but joked his beauty "is actually a burden."

"Sometimes I go to a party and not one of the other 49 most beautiful people is there," he said in the magazine. "That makes me feel very solitary and alone, because it means I am the most beautiful person in the room."

Reuters

MOORE

HAYEK

TV noontime menu: Prime beef, jiggling cantaloupes

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

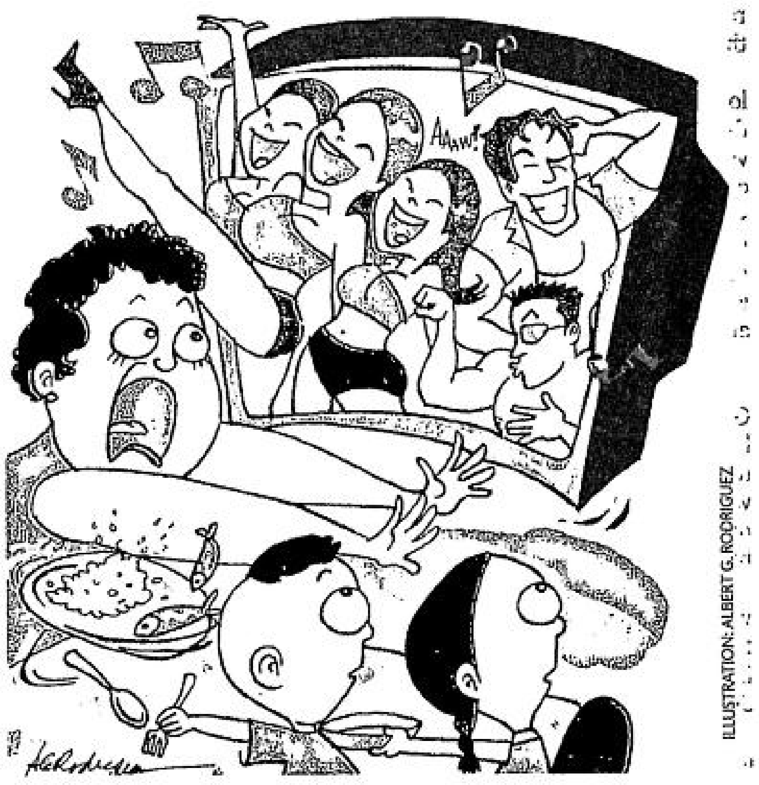


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

THE MENU reads: Sex Bombs, Viva Hot Babes, The Hunks, Maskulados and the Powerboys. Gorgeous, well-tended, near-perfect in shape, high-maintenance boys and girls whose very presence on your television screens puts aside any consideration of noticeable or presumed talent, to be replaced by the significance of Grade-A Kobe beef.

Reach for your remote control and try any of the two major television stations, and you see these specimens of delicious humanity singing, dancing, hosting or trying to do any of the above. Throw them on stage that has enough blinking lights to smash your retina, blanket them with techno music loud enough to pulverize your eardrums, and back them up with even more hyperventilating and gyrating dancers in costumes inspired by Japayuki sensibilities. Then accentuate their awesome presence with smoke machines, laser lights and camera work enough to make you rush to the bathroom and grab a handful of Bonamine.

The effect is magical.

But all these frills are insignificant, really. All they really have to do is jiggle their mammary glands (resembling terrorized cantaloupes barely contained in jockstraps turned into stylized brassieres) or flex their muscles or lick their lips. The live and TV audiences go wild and enter that form of ecstasy that no one discusses with anyone above the age of 50 or belong to any active religious organization.

When they mime the art of song, zoom in on their crotches or gyrating pelvises and who gives a hoot if they do not come close to either Gary or Jaya in the vocal chords department? After all, with brand names that do not suggest any guest performance in the next Catholic Mass Media Awards, their selling point is that the peak of health is more than hidden wealth... and just watching them move on stage is enough material for personal bathroom fantasies.

For art's sake

This is not to say that these performers are living proofs that God is fair, that the Lord Almighty may over-indulge you with looks but deprive you of brains. On the contrary, even God would attest that some of the best young actors in the country today belong to this interesting tribe of let's-shake-our-butts performers. They can be as cheesy as they are capable of being classy and sassy. Maybe it is because you can just take so much of their serious acting in dosages that come daily in soap operas they appear in, movies they star in, or in mall shows. Maybe it is because their thespian gifts have got nothing to do with an audience-rollicking rendition of "Do You Think I am Sexy?" in the middle of which they flash their armpits.

Similarly, the girls can warrant the much needed interest and boost to their promising careers as daring young actresses who will do anything for the sake of art. Now if they are deep into famous rationalizations, like "I will do anything if the role calls for it," what is wrong with vibrating your bottoms or your boobies in hot pants cut to way up there and bearing facial expressions that look like you are overdosing on laxatives? Yet somehow, even Martha Graham, Isadora Duncan and Alvin Ailey would be caught in a quandary trying to figure out if there is any real dancing taking place. More often than not, TV audience members gaping at these maidens in costumes that must have been purchased from fetish shops do not and cannot appreciate all the blood, sweat, tears and flesh exposed while the stars are doing a neo-Bacchanalian rendition of a Christina Aguillera song.

Raising hell

Somehow people remain amazed by the display of both guts and anatomy when these girls literally fill up the tube. Some prevailing question asked but never answered with resolution are: *"Totoo bang kanila 'yan o dinaan sa operasyon?", "Bakit ganyan kalalaki? Parang tatlo na ang kanyang ulo?" Or, even worse, "Ano ang sinasabi ng mga nanay nila 'pag ginagawa nila iyan?"*

As if this still really matters. How else can the game portion of a daily show spice up the visuals unless you have these eager femmes, unaware that they are fatales, move their pelvis in amazing ways that make them look capable of using their hips to open a stuck-up bottle of mayonnaise? Where is the excitement in a marathon variety show unless you get a glimpse of supple nymphs with dance steps that have become staple choreography in pantheons of art found along Timog Avenue?

And to think you can get a whole load of this visual delight while having lunch! Now that is real escapist entertainment with everything for just about everybody–especially if you are undergoing the rites of puberty and your hormones are bouncing like ping pong balls.

So some stalwarts and zealots of morality are raising hell as to why we get night club shows right smack at noon! They protest against the callousness of the cheese and beef parades that have now become integral to a newfound concept of total wholesome family entertainment. They warn against the adverse effects this will have on all those innocent ninnies who may grow up having one distinct ambition in mind: to be the star attraction of a nightclub in Kyoto dancing a techno version of the singkil while wearing crocheted bikinis in tribal colors.

Well, gone are the days when Sylvia La Torre would shriek in protest each time Eddie San Jose or any male of the species would even dare touch her hand. Look, but no touch, OK? But in a sense, the same Dalagang Filipina Syndrome prevails since, despite the exhibition of pelvic gymnastics and crotch wagging, nothing is ever consummated–give or take wisecracks from the male hosts complete with sexual innuendos as subtle and genteel as deliberate burps. Sans bed scenes or actual full exposure involving nipples and butts, all that is telecast is purely a component of what is called production value.

Fertile people

That is the way it is. And despite all reactions, whether in amusement or downright disgust, the Filipino audience feeds on this exhibition of sexuality in reaction to centuries old taboos. These are deep-rooted lessons that brainwash us into thinking that to be good we must remain vestal virgins or knights in shining armor complete with chastity belts for protection.

Sure, we may be the fastest,

TV'S BEEF/ C3

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Yilmaz denies he has another wife; defends dad

By Leah Salterio

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"At the end of the litigation, the action was extinguished in favor of my father. However, due to political reasons, the action was reenacted in 1998.

The case is presently being heard and has not been concluded yet. Our legal councilors will describe all details related to these affairs thereafter."

Yilmaz added in defense of his father: "Regardless of what my father does for a living, even if I would approve of his profession or not, I still feel great honor that he is my own true blood. Every individual is responsible for himself and has the opportunity in making the right choices in life.

"Every child wishes his/her father to be the king of the country of happiness, but reality is not comprised of the wishes alone... As a father has no chance making his choice of his child, a child also has no chance making the choice of his father."

Yilmaz also said he is rethinking his plans of investing in the Philippines.

"As a young, successful entrepreneur, I want to reconsider matters related in investing with other entrepreneurs who are supporting me in the Philippines," he said. "I am not a showbiz personality but rather a businessman who (plans) to employ thousands of people with my investments."

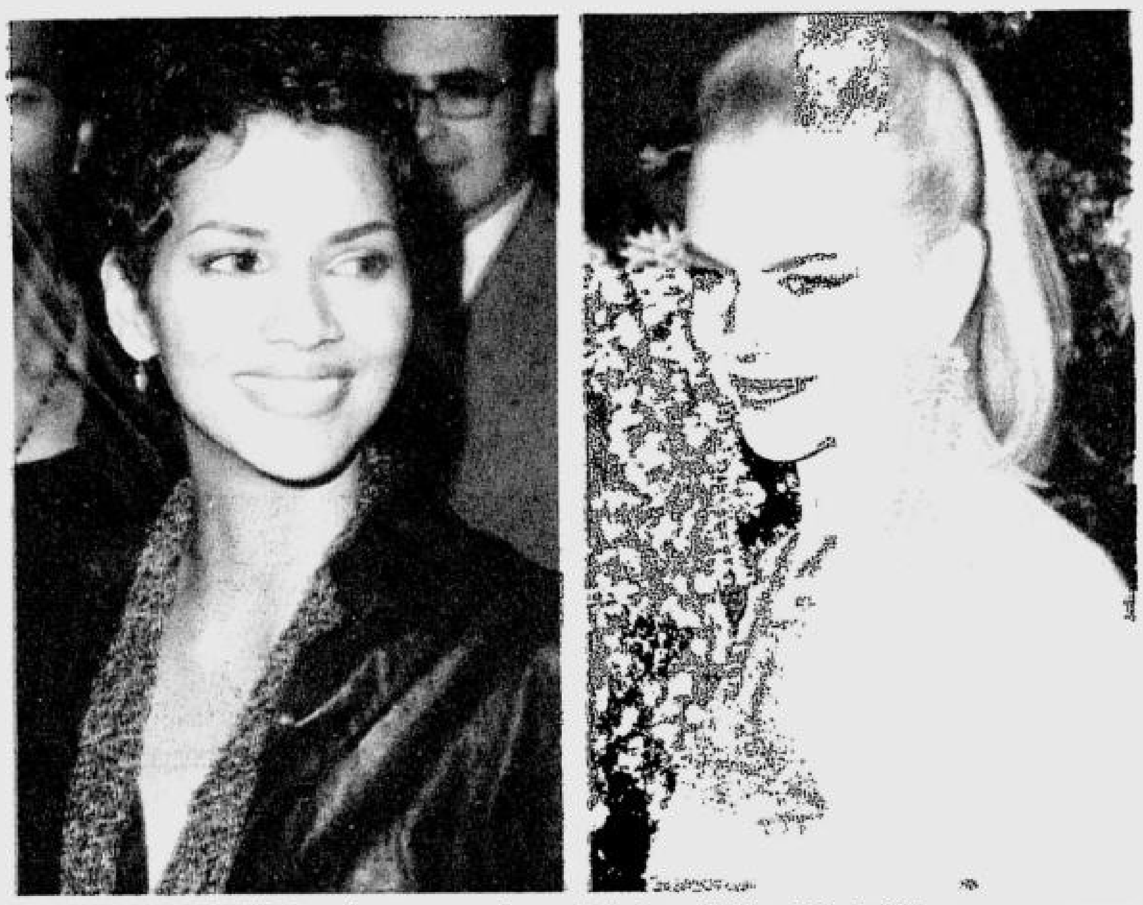
Yilmaz also chastised and warned the media in his wife's country, saying the rumors swirling around him were "untrue" and "speculative." He said the reports about him and his family were "made for ... rating purposes" and "hurt the human honor."

"I also hereby ensure everybody that we will not hesitate to use our legal rights in this respect through our legal councilors," he said.

Yilmaz added in his peculiar style: "I am kindly requesting the Philippine people and media to bless my marriage with Ruffa, which integrated two different cultures (and) destroyed all the taboos.

"Please pray that we may have a happy life and a healthy baby," the offended husband concluded in his statement.

UNION OF TWO CULTURES. Yilmaz Bektas appeals to Filipinos to pray that he and Ruffa Gutierrez may have a happy married life and a healthy baby.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



BEAUTY AND TALENT. Oscar best actress winners Halle Berry (left) and Nicole Kidman.
REUTERS

People magazine names world's '50 Most Beautiful'

SHOW STOPPERS

NEW YORK—It's official, Halle Berry, the actress whose star has risen in recent years thanks to an Oscar win and a stint as a Bond girl, is beautiful.

People magazine named the "50 Most Beautiful People in the World" in its latest issue, which hits newsstands on Friday, with Berry's face on the cover.

The Oscar-winning actress made the list for the seventh time, while fellow Oscar-winning actress Julia Roberts made the list for an eighth time, the magazine said.

First on the list of men was Ashton Kutcher of "That '70s Show," who described himself in the magazine as "a guy's guy... I don't comb my hair unless I have to."

Also listed were actresses Nicole Kidman, singer Britney Spears, who said her beauty secret was "lots and lots of sleep," actress Susan Sarandon and her daughter, actress Eva Amurri, actresses Catherine Zeta-Jones, Salma Hayek, Jennifer Aniston, Queen Latifah, Julianne Moore, 16-year-old twins Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen and singer Norah Jones.

Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of Elvis whose debut album has just been released, was also on the list and admitted to little beauty discipline.

"I smoke, I don't do yoga ... I bite the hell out of my nails," Presley said.

Also on the list were Hollywood couple Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, actors George Clooney, Hugh Jackman, Daniel Day-Lewis, Peter Krause, Colin Farrell, Leonardo DiCaprio, professional basketball player Tony Parker, flamenco dancer Farruquito and jockey Gary Stevens.

Comedic actor and writer Steve Martin was also named as a hunk, but joked his beauty "is actually a burden."

"Sometimes I go to a party and not one of the other 49 most beautiful people is there," he said in the magazine. "That makes me feel very solitary and alone, because it means I am the most beautiful person in the room."

Reuters

MOORE

HAYEK

TV noontime menu: Prime beef, jiggling cantaloupes

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

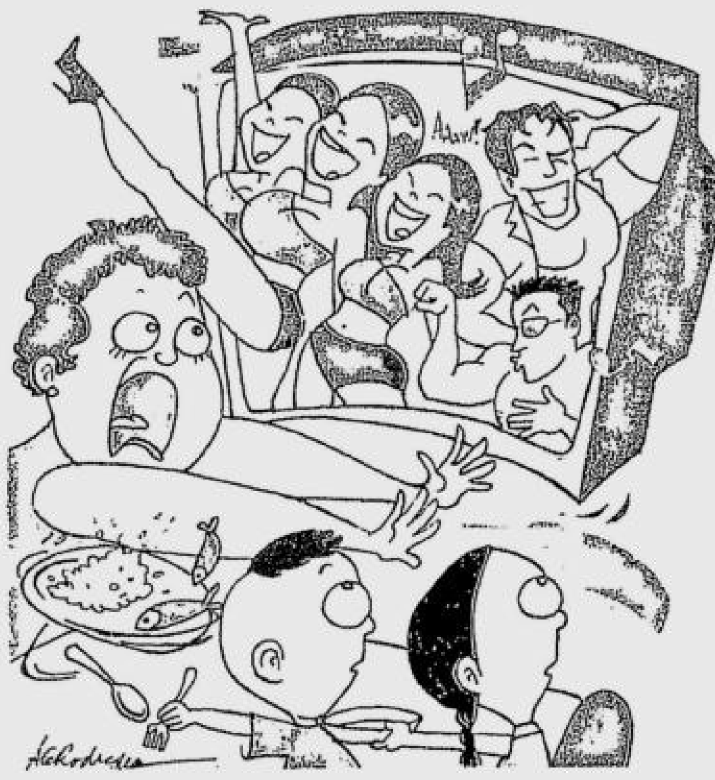


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

THE MENU reads: Sex Bombs, Viva Hot Babes, The Hunks, Maskulados and the Powerboys. Gorgeous, well-tended, near-perfect in shape, high-maintenance boys and girls whose very presence on your television screens puts aside any consideration of noticeable or presumed talent, to be replaced by the significance of Grade-A Kobe beef.

Reach for your remote control and try any of the two major television stations, and you see these specimens of delicious humanity singing, dancing, hosting or trying to do any of the above. Throw them on stage that has enough blinking lights to smash your retina, blanket them with techno music loud enough to pulverize your eardrums, and back them up with even more hyperventilating and gyrating dancers in costumes inspired by Japayuki sensibilities. Then accentuate their awesome presence with smoke machines, laser lights and camera work enough to make you rush to the bathroom and grab a handful of Bonamine.

The effect is magical.

But all these frills are insignificant, really. All they really have to do is jiggle their mammary glands (resembling terrorized cantaloupes barely contained in jockstraps turned into stylized brassieres) or flex their muscles or lick their lips. The live and TV audiences go wild and enter that form of ecstasy that no one discusses with anyone above the age of 50 or belong to any active religious organization.

When they mime the art of song, zoom in on their crotches or gyrating pelvises and who gives a hoot if they do not come close to either Gary or Jaya in the vocal chords department? After all, with brand names that do not suggest any guest performance in the next Catholic Mass Media Awards, their selling point is that the peak of health is more than hidden wealth... and just watching them move on stage is enough material for personal bathroom fantasies.

For art's sake

This is not to say that these performers are living proofs that God is fair, that the Lord Almighty may over-indulge you with looks but deprive you of brains. On the contrary, even God would attest that some of the best young actors in the country today belong to this interesting tribe of let's-shake-our-butts performers. They can be as cheesy as they are capable of being classy and sassy. Maybe it is because you can just take so much of their serious acting in dosages that come daily in soap operas they appear in, movies they star in, or in mall shows. Maybe it is because their thespian gifts have got nothing to do with an audience-rollicking rendition of "Do You Think I am Sexy?" in the middle of which they flash their armpits.

Similarly, the girls can warrant the much needed interest and boost to their promising careers as daring young actresses who will do anything for the sake of art. Now if they are deep into famous rationalizations, like "I will do anything if the role calls for it," what is wrong with vibrating your bottoms or your boobies in hot pants cut to way up there and bearing facial expressions that look like you are overdosing on laxatives? Yet somehow, even Martha Graham, Isadora Duncan and Alvin Ailey would be caught in a quandary trying to figure out if there is any real dancing taking place. More often than not, TV audience members gaping at these maidens in costumes that must have been purchased from fetish shops do not and cannot appreciate all the blood, sweat, tears and flesh exposed while the stars are doing a neo-Bacchanalian rendition of a Christina Aguillera song.

Raising hell

Somehow people remain amazed by the display of both guts and anatomy when these girls literally fill up the tube. Some prevailing question asked but never answered with resolution are: *"Totoo bang kanila 'yan o dinaan sa operasyon?", "Bakit ganyan kalalaki? Parang tatlo na ang kanyang ulo?"* Or, even worse, *"Ano ang sinasabi ng mga nanay nila 'pag ginagawa nila iyan?"*

As if this still really matters. How else can the game portion of a daily show spice up the visuals unless you have these eager femmes, unaware that they are fatales, move their pelvis in amazing ways that make them look capable of using their hips to open a stuck-up bottle of mayonnaise? Where is the excitement in a marathon variety show unless you get a glimpse of supple nymphs with dance steps that have become staple choreography in pantheons of art found along Timog Avenue?

And to think you can get a whole load of this visual delight while having lunch! Now that is real escapist entertainment with everything for just about everybody–especially if you are undergoing the rites of puberty and your hormones are bouncing like ping pong balls.

So some stalwarts and zealots of morality are raising hell as to why we get night club shows right smack at noon! They protest against the callousness of the cheese and beef parades that have now become integral to a newfound concept of total wholesome family entertainment. They warn against the adverse effects this will have on all those innocent ninnies who may grow up having one distinct ambition in mind: to be the star attraction of a nightclub in Kyoto dancing a techno version of the singkil while wearing crocheted bikinis in tribal colors.

Well, gone are the days when Sylvia La Torre would shriek in protest each time Eddie San Jose or any male of the species would even dare touch her hand. Look, but no touch, OK? But in a sense, the same Dalagang Filipina Syndrome prevails since, despite the exhibition of pelvic gymnastics and crotch wagging, nothing 's ever consummated–give or take wisecracks from the male hosts complete with sexual innuendos as subtle and genteel as deliberate burps. Sans bed scenes or actual full exposure involving nipples and butts, all that is telecast is purely a component of what is called production value.

Fertile people

That is the way it is. And despite all reactions, whether in amusement or downright disgust, the Filipino audience feeds on this exhibition of sexuality in reaction to centuries old taboos. These are deep-rooted lessons that brainwash us into thinking that to be good we must remain vestal virgins or knights in shining armor complete with chastity belts for protection.

Sure, we may be the fastest

TV'S BEEF: C3

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MISSED. No longer on late-night TV, Martin misses his Channel 2 show, even when he has a US "adventure" to divert him and an Araneta Coliseum concert with Regine Velasquez.

Martin still 'MAD' at ABS-CBN

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MARTIN Nievera has not stopped feeling bitter toward ABS-CBN.

In the April 30 edition of this column, Martin aired his resentment at the giant network which he said "milked" his recent concert with **Pops Fernandez** at the Araneta Coliseum when it aired the concert as a two-part special instead of as one full show.

After ABS-CBN explained its side, Martin sent me these text messages:

"It may have been an agreement between Maxi-Media and ABS-CBN, but it still takes two to agree," Martin said. "If ABS-CBN does not really do two-part specials, then they could have said 'no.'

"Every concert I do is three hours long, so what kind of an excuse is that? How would you feel when you see a two-part TV special with commercials galore between every song and you had a show axed and nothing was done to keep you from moving to another network? This is where the bitterness lies, not with anyone in ABS-CBN.

"I am very grateful to ABS-CBN and I have no solid offers to go to GMA 7. How can I move when I have no contract with Channel 2 to make me stay? I have been with ABS-CBN all these years out of loyalty and love. That's probably why I am show-less now.

"If I had a bad reputation and I was a difficult artist to work with, then maybe we wouldn't be having this conversation. It just doesn't make sense.

"I'm not sure what's in store for my TV career, but since I have this new adventure in Las Vegas at the Golden Nugget, I guess not having a TV show is a blessing in disguise. I will miss it, though."

I miss Martin on late-night TV. I have no idea why ABS-CBN decided to axe his 30-minute show "Martin Late@Nite," which was fast-paced and entertaining.

After his two-night concert with **Regine Velasquez** at the Araneta Coliseum on May 9 and 10 (also produced by Maxi-Media International), Martin will leave for the US to fulfill his engagement in Las Vegas.

He and Regine will bring their successful US concert tour to the Araneta Coliseum and also to Cebu, with **Gerard Salonga** as musical director.

The first time Martin and Regine did a back-to-back show was 12 years ago at the Ultra.

In the US, they conquered five cities—Honolulu, Chicago, San Diego, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Maxi-Media plans to bring the Martin-Regine tour to Guam, Europe, Australia and more cities in the US.

New face on 'F'

AFTER **Cher Calvin** left ABS-CBN's weekly magazine show, "F" (to join Fox Channel in Las Vegas), the name of **Pia Guanio** floated as her possible replacement. The other Saturday, however, it wasn't Pia who formally joined the late-night program but Channel V VJ and model **Amanda Griffin**, completing the "F" triumvirate with **Angel Aquino** and **Daphne Oseña**.

Amanda brings a sleeker, hipper new look to "F," which presents more interesting lifestyle features.

"F," which airs 11:30 p.m. on Saturdays, marks Amanda's first venture into mainstream TV. As Channel V VJ, her exposure was limited to cable TV viewers.

When "F" was offered to her, Amanda was immediately receptive to the idea of hosting a magazine show.

"There was no question of turning it down," she says of her new "F" stint. "The stuff that I get to report about in 'F' is the stuff that I like in real life, like fashion, food and music."

Amanda, who has a business communications degree from the Bond University in the Gold Coast in Australia, came to Manila three years ago to take on modelling jobs but she eventually ended up on TV.

"I was quite shy when I was growing up, so I never imagined myself being on TV," Amanda asserts.

She is the eldest of the three children of a British father and Filipino mom from Cebu. In Manila, she attended the International School for four years until she was 17 years old.

Her parents initially didn't approve of Amanda leaving Australia and working in Manila.

She lives alone in Manila with only her pet dogs—a Pomeranian and an Australian silky terrier—and a maid.

"My parents didn't want me to live here," she says. "But I've gotten a lot of work and I support

MARTIN/ C7

DAD'S GIRL. Amanda Griffin says she learned her business sense from her British father.

"F" GIRLS. Amanda Griffin (center) completes the triumvirate with Angel Aquino (right) and Daphne Oseña.

Excessively focused TV news coverage

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVER since the SARS scare hit the headlines, television news programs have been covering it—with alacrity. Last week, for instance, we caught a 30-minute newscast that devoted 20 minutes of its running time to SARS stories, before finally moving on to reporting on something else.

This, by the way, is strongly reminiscent of TV news practice during the first few weeks of the war in Iraq.

What's going on here? Why is TV news policy apparently so focused on the big news event of the moment, to the near-exclusion of other similarly significant events?

A colleague who works in television news shares some insights: He believes that local viewers get fixated on only a few major incidents, the more shocking or threatening, the better.

Thus, the war in Iraq was a sure-fire "viewer-getter" because people feared that it could escalate into something bigger, which would soon adversely affect even the Philippines.

Also, war is like (action film) entertainment, with very telegenic explosions, bombing runs, tank battles, street skirmishes, etc.

Our resource person pointed out that local TV wasn't alone in this "blanket" approach to war news reportage and coverage. American news channels also gave Iraq very extensive coverage, going into even the smallest and most seemingly inconsequential details, and thus driving some American viewers batty.

So, don't knock local TV, he urged. It's merely taking its cue from the big guys, who are supposed to know better.

What about the TV coverage of the SARS story? It's more public-service oriented than the war reportage last month, simply because things can be done to prevent or minimize the illness' entry into the country.

Thus, rather than just showing dramatic footage, local SARS coverage touches base with health executives, asking for guidelines, and telecasting those guidelines in detail for the education and protection of the general populace.

Ironically, however, this very zealousness has created an unexpected problem: On one hand, government officials keep urging people not to panic, but the extremely extensive SARS coverage on TV is so alarming that it could scare people into panicking.

Thus, uninformed people treat those in quarantine areas like pariahs. People who cough or sniffle even slightly in public suddenly find themselves being the objects of accusing stares from fellow pedestrians.

Yes, viewers should be told what to do to keep themselves safe from SARS, but they shouldn't be overwhelmed by hysterical coverage, to the point of empathetic hysteria.

For starters, TV newscasts could cut down their SARS coverage to a maximum of one-half of its total running time. With judicious editing, they can report pretty much the same amount of SARS-related material, while still leaving enough time to report on other significant news events.

The thing is to be helpfully informative without going overboard and ending up as a terrifying, self-fulfilling prophecy of doom and gloom.

Interesting shows on NGC

THE NATIONAL Geographic Channel telecasts some interesting shows today, May 4. They include: 9 a.m., "Shape of Life: Origins." 11 a.m., "Adventure One: Mysteries of the Twilight Zone." 12 noon, "Best of the Week: $100 Taxi Ride —Anchorage, USA and Hobart Australia."

2 p.m., "Surviving Everest." 5 p.m., "Tomorrow's World." 5:30 p.m., "Nat Geo Genius." 9 p.m., "Secret Asia: China Unbound—A Woman's Place." 11 p.m., "Search for the First Dog: A Quest to Find Our Original Best Friend."

'Darkness Falls'

IN THE new horror-thriller, "Darkness Falls," a young man must go back home to confront his troubled past—and to save his childhood sweetheart and her younger brother from an unrelenting evil that has plagued their town for more than 100 years.

The force of evil turns out to be a long-dead resident who was murdered a long time ago, and has returned to seek revenge. She can't exist in the light, so she strikes under the cover of night.

The film plays with the tension between what is real and what is imagined—and how the two converge in terrifying ways to scare viewers cowering in the dark.

Nyoy Volante and Mannos

THIS MONTH, **Nyoy Volante** and his group Mannos perform at these venues: May 8, at Hard Rock Cafe in Makati with **Dessa**. May 9, at Matti (Rockwell). May 10, at Central Plaza, Eastwood, Libis. May 15, at Hard Rock Makati with **Lana Jalosjos** and **Tex Ordoñez**.

May 16, at Monks Dream (Rockwell) and Chef & Brewer's Bar, Ortigas. May 22, at Hard Rock Makati with **Bituin Escalante**. May 23, at Zeno (Libis).

TV noontime menu: Prime beef ...

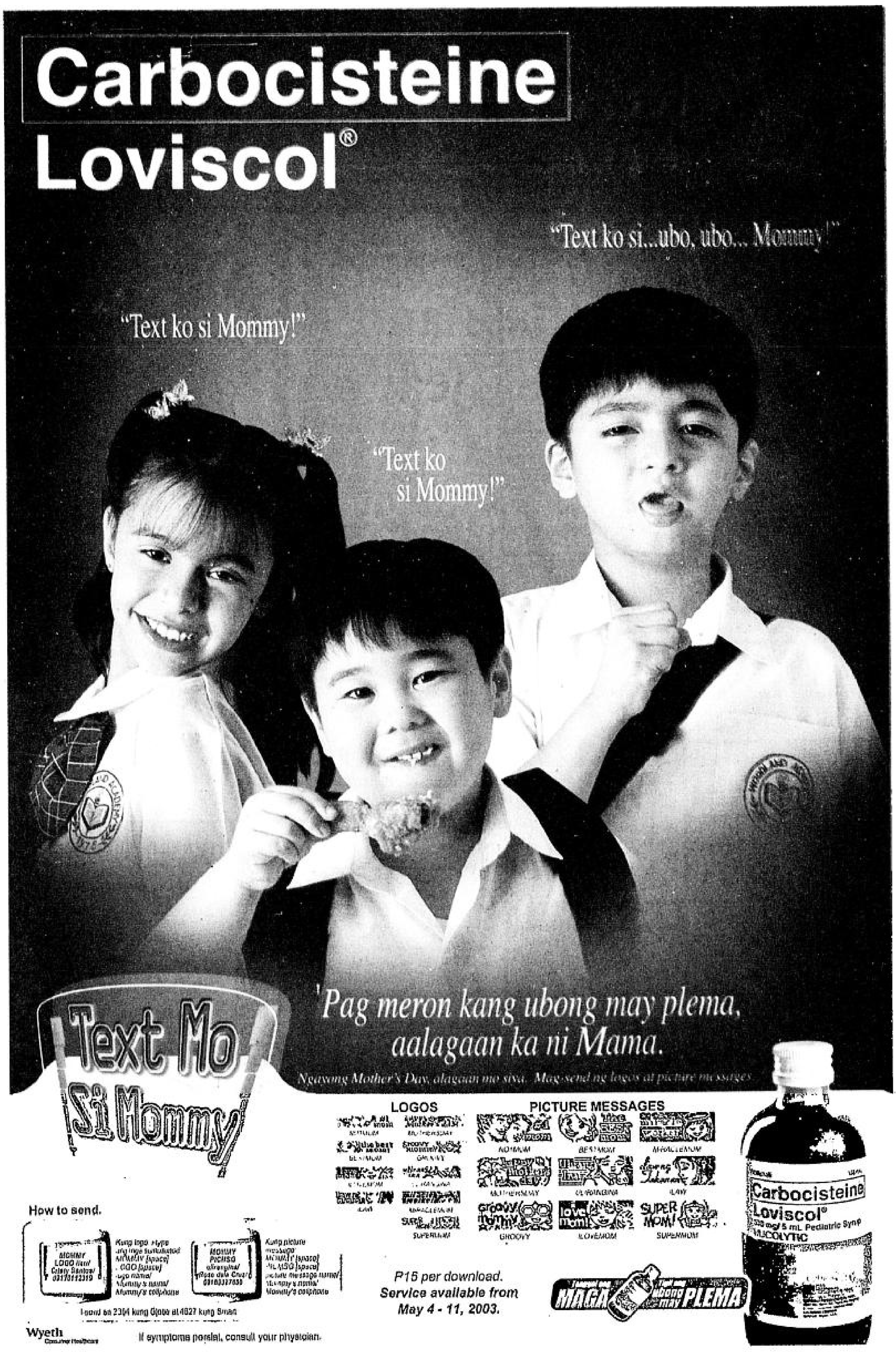
From page C2

growing population in Asia, but sexuality has got nothing to do with that. We are just plain, uh, fertile.

In the meantime, we indulge in the momentary fantasies provided by these gyrating nubile women and muscular men as they approximate the effectiveness of song and dance by the number of cold showers they can generate with a single production number. We watch them compete against each other in grand production numbers that approximate gladiatorial battles if not good old vicious *sabong*. We see them everyday, lips glistening as if they French-kissed a vat of really oily puchero, muscles sparkling with baby oil rubbed and buffed to the point of making them look like roasting chicken in a rotisserie.

But who cares? It's all in the spirit of good clean fun, and cleanliness is relative, right?

Oh, boy! We have gone a long way, baby.



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PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 XEREX	1 X-MEN 2	ArtFilm 1 TITUS (Exclusive Screenings) 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 X-MEN 2 2:35, 5:30, 8:25, 11:20	THX 1 X-MEN 2
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU	2 X-MEN 2	2 X-MEN 2 12:05, 2:55, 5:45, 8:35	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 X-MEN 2 [illegible]15, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40	2 X-MEN 2
3 X-MEN 2	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 X-MEN 2 1:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40	ACOUSTIC NIGHT OUT FEAT. SIDE A May 16, 17, 30 & 31	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ANGER MANAGEMENT 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	3 X-MEN 2
4 X-MEN 2	4 JOHNNY ENGLISH		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 X-MEN 2 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00	4 X-MEN 2
	5 X-MEN 2		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 X-MEN 2 12:20, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05	5 TILL THERE WAS YOU
	6 X-MEN 2			
	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU			

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8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
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2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	XEREX

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	RING-2
2	XEREX
3 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	PUNLA
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NATIONAL SECURITY
2	X-MEN-2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	RING-2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DIGITAL)	X-MEN-2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU

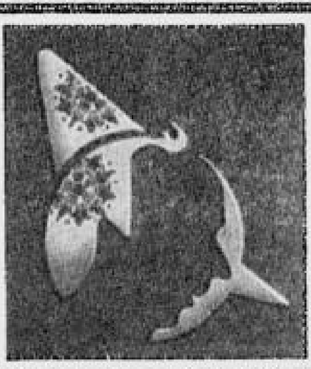
Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	X-MEN-2
3 (DOLBY)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 (DTS)	JUNGLE BOOK-2

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72



PINOCCHIO

SHOWING ON MAY 7

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173660

1	JOHNNY ENGLISH
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	X-MEN 2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	X-MEN 2
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	XEREX
8	EQUILIBRIUM

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	A MAN APART
3	X-MEN 2
4	XEREX
5	X-MEN 2
6	JOHNNY ENGLISH
7	X-MEN 2
8	EQUILIBRIUM
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	JOHNNY ENGLISH
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	EQUILIBRIUM
4	X-MEN 2
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	XEREX
7	X-MEN 2
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	A MAN APART
10	ANGER MANAGEMENT
11	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
12	X-MEN 2

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	X-MEN 2
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4	X-MEN 2
5	ANGER MANAGEMENT
6	X-MEN 2
7	EQUILIBRIUM
8	A MAN APART
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	TILL THERE WAS YOU
11	TILL THERE WAS YOU
12	XEREX

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	EQUILIBRIUM
2	X-MEN 2
3	X-MEN 2
4	X-MEN 2
5	ANGER MANAGEMENT
6	JOHNNY ENGLISH
7	A MAN APART
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	X-MEN 2
11	TILL THERE WAS YOU
12	XEREX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	ANGER MANAGEMENT
2	X-MEN 2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	XEREX
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	JOHNNY ENGLISH
7	X-MEN 2
8	X-MEN 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8088888

1	X-MEN 2
2	ANGER MANAGEMENT
3	X-MEN 2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6	A MAN APART
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	X-MEN 2
9	JOHNNY ENGLISH
10	XEREX

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	X-MEN 2
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	KANGAROO JACK
4	EQUILIBRIUM
5	XEREX
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	X-MEN 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	JUST MARRIED
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	X-MEN 2
5	X-MEN 2
6	JOHNNY ENGLISH
7	CLOSED
8	XEREX

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	X-MEN 2
2	X-MEN 2
3	JOHNNY ENGLISH
4	XEREX
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	XEREX
2	X-MEN 2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	X-MEN 2
2	XEREX
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	X-MEN 2
2	XEREX
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	JOHNNY ENGLISH
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	X-MEN 2

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	XEREX
4	X-MEN 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	X-MEN 2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	JOHNNY ENGLISH
4	X-MEN 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-6976

1	X-MEN 2 11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END
2	X-MEN 2 10:30 FS/11:00 MF/1:50/4:40/7:30/ 9:50 LFS/10:30 LMF/12:40 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

call-a-movie: 536- 7812

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 / 633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	X-MEN2 11:20 LMF, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30 LMF
2	X-MEN2
3	JOHNNY ENGLISH
4	XEREX
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	X-MEN2
7	EQUILIBRIUM
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	A MAN APART
10	WHAT A GIRL WANTS

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	X-MEN 2
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	XEREX
4	ANGER MANAGEMENT
5	X-MEN 2
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	X-MEN 2

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	ANGER MANAGEMENT
2	X-MEN 2
3	JOHNY ENGLISH
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	X-MEN 2
6	XEREX
7	X-MEN 2
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	X- MEN 2
2	A MAN APART
3	XEREX
4	JOHNY ENGLISH
5	X- MEN 2
6	ANGER MANAGEMENT
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU

Malabon Citisquare 288-0985 / 288-2575

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	X- MEN 2
3	JOHNY ENGLISH
4	XEREX

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. (045)875-1927 / (045)961-5270

1	X-MEN2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	WILLARD
4	XEREX
5	JOHNY ENGLISH
6	X-MEN2

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	XEREX
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	A MAN APART
5	X-MEN 2
6	JOHNY ENGLISH

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907

1	XEREX
2	X- MEN 2
3	TIL THERE WAS YOU
4	JOHNNY ENGLISH
5	EQUILIBRIUM

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	X-MEN 2
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	JUST MARRIED
5	X-MEN 2
6	X-MEN 2

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	X-MEN2
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	XEREX
5	SHADOW OF VAMPIRE
6	X-MEN 2

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
X-MEN 2
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
PG13
ADVANCE SELLING:P150

CINEMA 2
X-MEN 2
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00
PG13
ADVANCE SELLING:P150

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
MAY 16 & 17, 2003 "KUH HITS BACK" (Kuh Ledesma) 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6728 OR 721-0635

DID YOU KNOW...

Before he left for his five-city concert tour with **Regine Velasquez** in the United States, **Martin Nievera** was seen in Alabang Town Center (ATC) one Sunday afternoon, where he met up with ex-wife **Pops Fernandez**, who was there ahead of him. This was before Pops left ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime show, "Asap."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PUNLA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	PUNLA
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PUNLA
B	BOLD STAR
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA-2	THE JUNGLE BOOK 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-2	BOLD STAR
CINEMA-3	A MAN APART
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-7	ANGER MANAGEMENT
CINEMA-8	PUNLA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-12	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-14	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-15	XEREX
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LNES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

"WHATEVER YOU IMAGINE, YOU WILL SEE BEYOND OF IT."
MATRIX RELOADED
05.15.03
WWW.THEMATRIX.COM

The Ayala Malls Events
AYALA CENTER
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU

Trumpets
LITTLE MERMAID

Featuring
Antoinette Taus as Little Mermaid
& Karylle as Princess Sapphire
Directed by Audie Gemora

Ayala Center Makati
May 2 11am, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm
May 3 2pm, 4pm, 6pm
May 4 4pm, 6:30pm

Alabang Town Center
May 9 11am, 4pm, 6pm
May 10 11am, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm
May 11 4pm, 6:30pm

Ayala Center Cebu
May 23 4pm, 6:30pm
May 24 11am, 3pm, 5:30pm, 7pm
May 25 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm

Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.
www.ayalamalls.com.ph www.ayalaland.com.ph

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
NOW SHOWING
A Star Cinema 10th Year Anniversary Presentation
CERTIFIED BOX-OFFICE HIT!!!
Ronaldo Valdez Gina Pareño Pen Medina Marissa Delgado
Jennifer Sevilla Gerald Madrid Angel Jacob and Matet de Leon

Judy Ann Santos
Piolo Pascual
Till There Was You
Directed by: Bb. Joyce Bernal

LEONARDO Bags
Pacific Blue SHADES
STAR CINEMA
Text YOU and send to 2366

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

THE TIME HAS COME
FOR THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT
TO STAND UNITED.
X-MEN 2
MARVEL

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

jay manalo carlos morales maricar de mesa
ricardo cepeda john apacible kristal
Bayarán
JUN POSADAS

OPENS MAY 7

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

DID YOU KNOW...

Spotted hanging out at the Bed bar on Nakpil Street in Malate were "SOP" hosts **Ogie Alcasid, Regine Velasquez** and **Jaya Ramsey.** The INQUIRER source said the three celebrities appeared to be doing some R&R after performing in the neighborhood. Ogie is also an owner of a resto-bar in Malate–the nth degree on Adriatico Street.

SHOW TIME

Globe to send four winners to 2003 MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles

FOUR lucky winners will get the chance-of-a-lifetime to watch the 2003 MTV Movie Awards night on May 31 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, courtesy of Globe Gentxt.

To join the promo, all Globe Gentxt subscribers from April 27 to May 19, can key in "MTV" in their mobile phones and send it to 2910 and answer the MTV Movie Awards trivia questions.

Answer as much trivia questions to earn points. Five winners will win exclusive 2003 MTV Movie Awards premium items daily. One weekly winner will receive a mobile phone and the four overall top scorers throughout the contest period will be flown to Los Angeles to watch the show.

Presented by Globe Gentxt, this year's MTV Movie Awards will premiere on MTV Philippines (Channel 41) on June 14 at 2 p.m. and June 15 at 9 p.m.

A series of movie screenings at The Fort, "MTV Movie Awards Movie Madness," will kick off on May 9, 7:30 p.m., featuring nominated films.

The MTV Movie Awards gives an exciting and alternative spin to the traditional awards ceremonies, with categories like best villain, best onscreen team, best comedic performance, breakthrough male/female, best movie, best male/female performance and best kiss, among others.

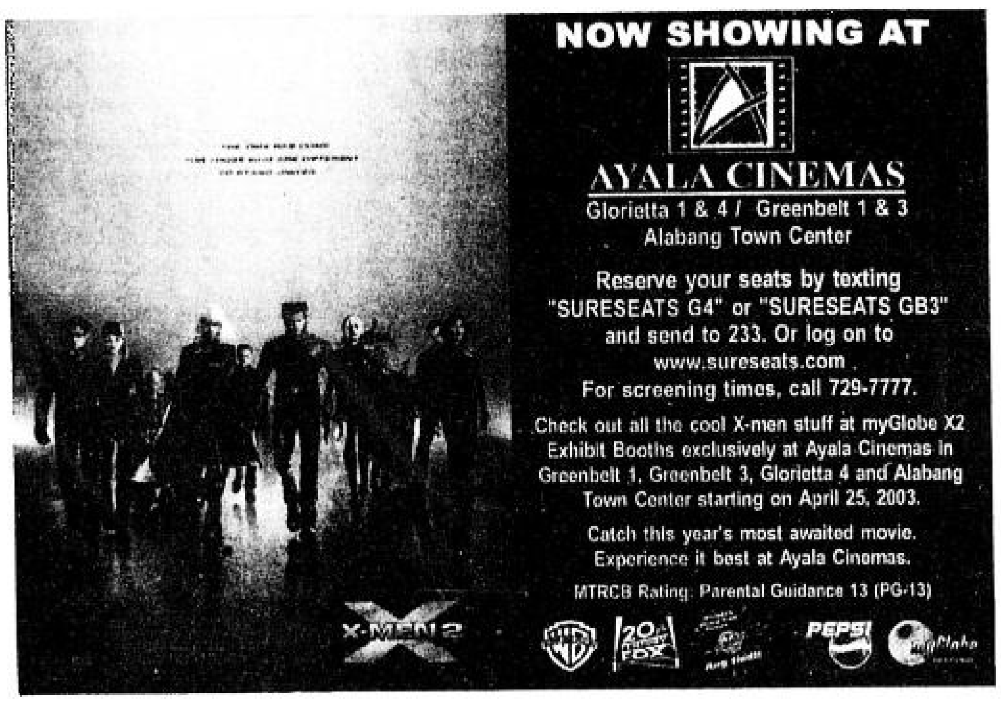
This year, MTV added a new category, best virtual performance, as a salute to the latest tool of movie-making–artificial character generation.

The superhero theme will be highlighted in this year's show inspired by onscreen butt-kickers like Yoda, Austin, Spiderman and Jinx.

Topping this year's list of nominees are "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" and "Spiderman," with five nominations each.

Hosting the awards night are Justine Timberlake, who is one fifth of the group N'Sync, who's branched out on his own with the multi-platinum solo debut album, "Justified," and actor Sean William Scott from the "American Pie" movies.

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING AT ArtFilm
DARING. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY
Love, revenge and power form a deadly struggle in this fierce Roman drama by Shakespeare.
TITUS
ANTHONY HOPKINS & JESSICA LANGE
Harry J. Lennix, Alan Cumming, Laura Fraser
In this epic tale of revenge based upon the play of William Shakespeare, Anthony Hopkins stars as Titus Andronicus, the Roman general who sows the seeds of vengeance when he executes the son of the enemy Queen, played by Jessica Lange. The repercussions of his action are revealed when the vindictive woman becomes the new wife of the Roman Emperor.
"The single most visually dazzling movie of the last half-decade."
– Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER


NOW SHOWING AT
AYALA CINEMAS
Glorietta 1 & 4 / Greenbelt 1 & 3
Alabang Town Center
Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" or "SURESEATS GB3" and send to 233. Or log on to www.sureseats.com.
For screening times, call 729-7777.
Check out all the cool X-men stuff at myGlobe X2 Exhibit Booths exclusively at Ayala Cinemas in Greenbelt 1, Greenbelt 3, Glorietta 4 and Alabang Town Center starting on April 25, 2003.
Catch this year's most awaited movie. Experience it best at Ayala Cinemas.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
X-MEN 2
PEPSI

Viva Concerts brings you...
Acoustic night out at ONSTAGE
May 1, 2 & 3
Freestyle with Bituin, Chedi, Nina, Malik & Ogie Alcasid
May 16, 17, 30 & 31
Side A with Special Guests
May 23 & 24
Paolo Santos with Barbie, Nina & Pido
A SERIES OF UNPLUGGED LOCAL MUSIC
Ticket Outlets:
TicketWorld at all National Bookstore • Viva Concerts at 687-5853
Ticket Price: P1,300 • P1,100 • P800
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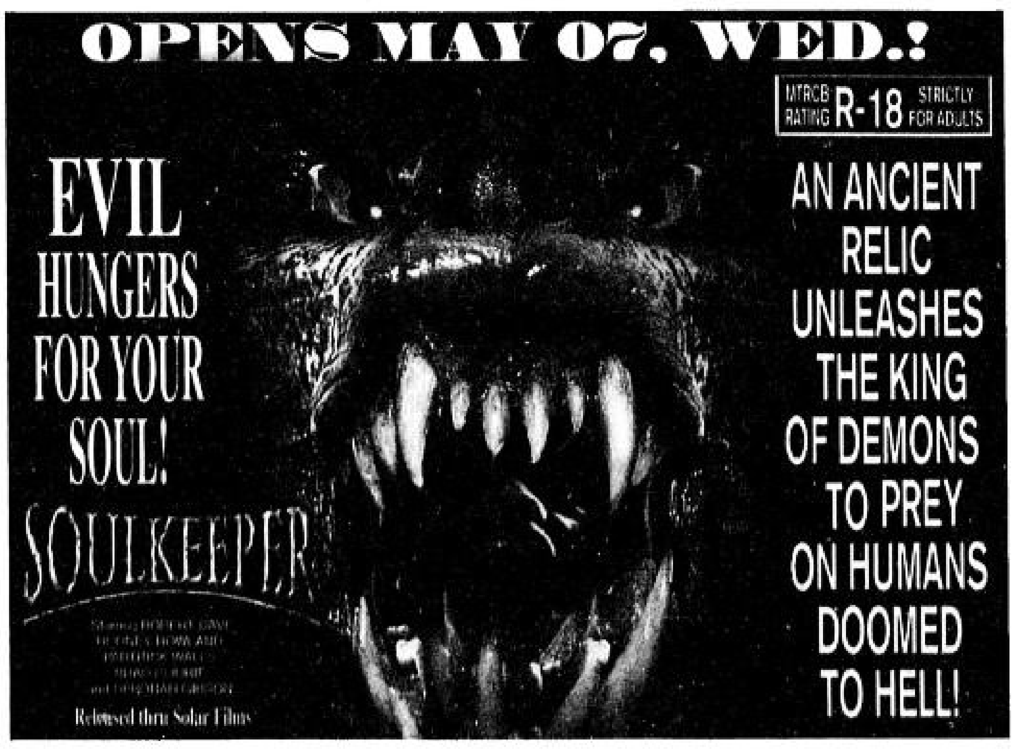
MTRCB ▶ R-13 Strictly for 13 years of age and up

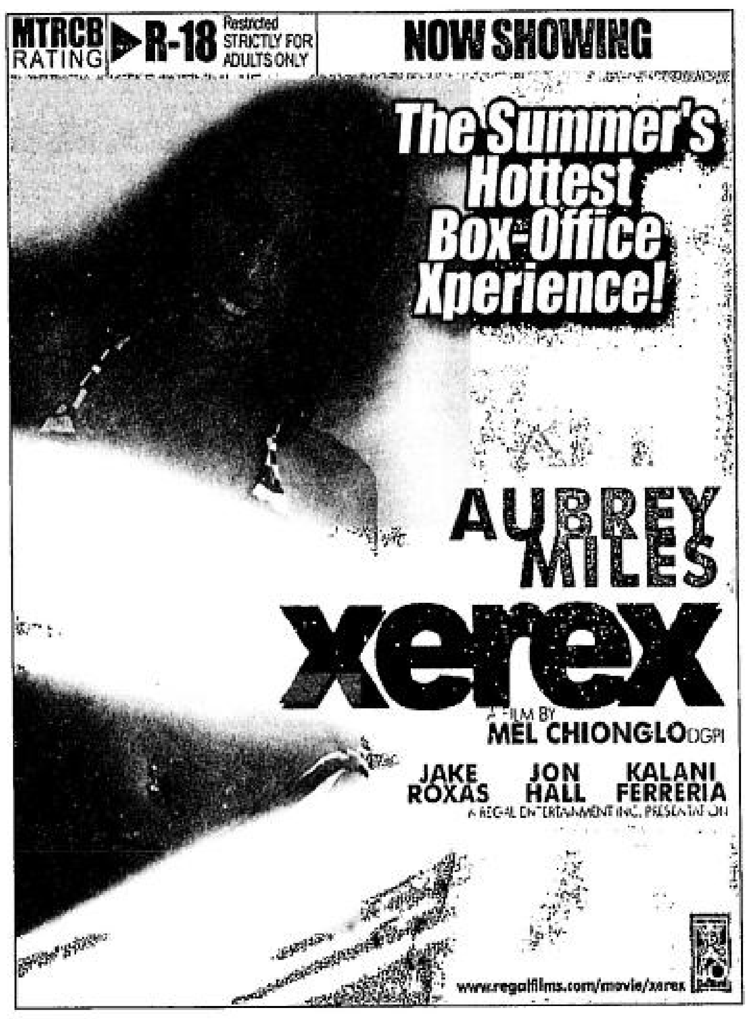
NICHOLSON
SANDLER
ANGER MANAGEMENT
FEEL THE LOVE
sony.com/AngerManagement
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
Adam Sandler, Jack Nicholson offer non-stop laughs in fun, new comedy
In the No. 1 comedy in America, Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson star together for the first time as patient and therapist -- though at times it's hard to tell which one is which!
After a misunderstanding aboard an airplane, mild-mannered Dave Buznik (Sandler) is ordered to attend anger management sessions run by outrageous psychiatrist Dr. Buddy Rydell (Nicholson).
Tortured by Buddy's wacky and abrasive confrontational methods, Dave must decide whether to crawl back into his shell or stand up for himself, and keep his girl (Marisa Tomei) along the way.
With surprise appearances by top celebrities.
SECOND WEEK!


OPENS MAY 07, WED.!
MTRCB RATING R-18 STRICTLY FOR ADULTS
EVIL HUNGERS FOR YOUR SOUL!
SOULKEEPER
Released thru Solar Films
AN ANCIENT RELIC UNLEASHES THE KING OF DEMONS TO PREY ON HUMANS DOOMED TO HELL!

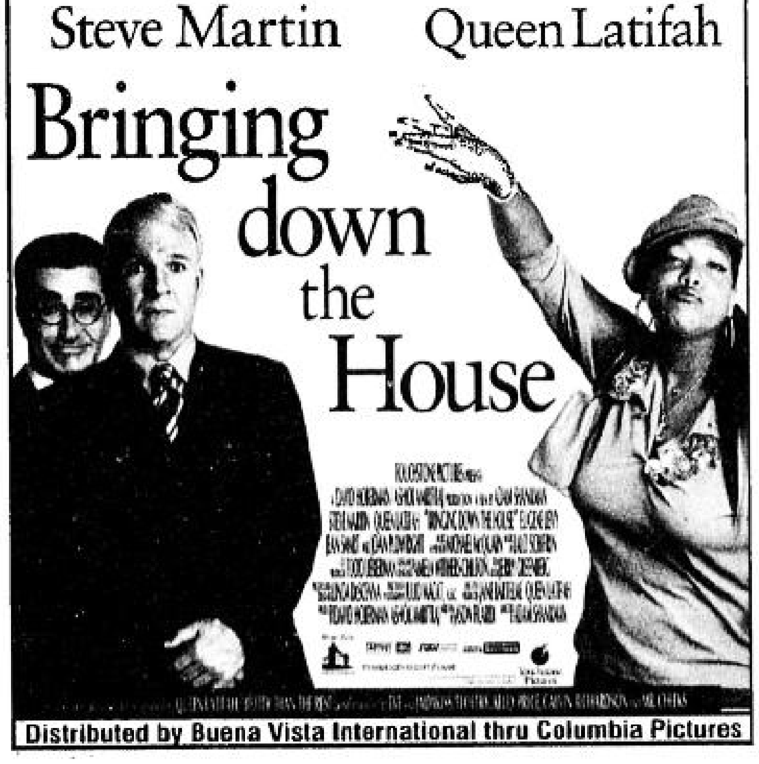
POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

X-MEN 2 P13 11:10,2:10, 5:10,8:10	X-MEN 2 P13 11:45,2:45, 5:45,8:45	X-MEN 2 P13 12:20,3:20, 6:20,9:20
X-MEN 2 P13 12:55,3:55, 6:55,9:55	ANGER MANAGEMENT R13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00	X-MEN 2 P13 1:30,4:30, 7:30,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.


MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 Restricted STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY
NOW SHOWING
The Summer's Hottest Box-Office Xperience!
AUBREY MILES
xerex
A FILM BY MEL CHIONGLO DGPI
JAKE ROXAS JON HALL KALANI FERRERIA
A REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. PRESENTATION
www.regalfilms.com/movie/xerex

THREE WEEKS AT NO.1 IN THE U.S.!
NON-STOP COMEDY STARTS ON MAY 7!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
"SIDE-SPLITTING, KNEE-SLAPPING, BELLY-ACHING LAUGHS!"
Mose Persico, ENTERTAINMENT SPOTLIGHT, CTV MONTREAL
"UPROARIOUS, OUTRAGEOUS AND IRRESISTIBLE!"
Jim Svejda, KNX/CBS RADIO



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

CNN airs unseen Beatles material

CNN's "The Music Room" features previously unseen footage of Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr in a mid-1990s jam session and has been given exclusive access to the team who put together "The Beatles Anthology."

The half-hour program also gets a unique tour of the Abbey Road's famous Studio 2, where the Beatles recorded many of their best-known songs, and sees the 40-year-old echo chamber used to record "Yellow Submarine" and other well-known hits.

When released, "The Beatles Anthology" immediately became the best-selling music DVD, entering the charts at number one.

Abbey Road's senior recording engineer demonstrates how he took the original master of the classic George Harrison song, "Something" and used digital technology to remix into the state-of-the-art surround sound.

"The Music Room" reporter, Amanda Palmer, hears special out-takes from Beatles recording sessions and shows for the first time interviews and jamming sessions with Paul, George and Ringo, when they reunited for the making of the "Anthology" in the mid-1990s.

For more information about the program, check out the website at www.cnn.com.themusicroom.

"The Music Room" airs today at 8:30 a.m. 3:30 and 9:30 p.m.

'Beauty Plus' goes to SM Megamall

REYES

RPN 9's lifestyle show, "Beauty Plus," takes viewers to SM Megamall in Ortigas Center, where the 2003 Search for Kolourmasters was held.

Mall promenaders and spectators were treated to musical and dance numbers by popular entertainers.

At 11 a.m. today, the Kolours winners will be featured on "Beauty Plus," directed by Cris Aquino and produced hosted by Ricky Reyes.

Winners in the commercial category are John Cliff Dimaala (champion), Alex Yusingco (first runner-up) and Edrian Yalong (second runner-up).

In the fantasy category, winners are Ronald Aquino (champion), Bugey Espeleta (first runner-up) and AJ Berda (second runner-up).

In the segment "Make Over Magic," Cristina Tayao samples Mother Ricky's unique artistry on the latest make-up and hairstyle trends for teenagers like her.

In "Straight from the Expert," Decoration 911 will display its celebrity edition.

"HBC on the Go" holds an outreach seminar for residents of Biñan, Laguna.

As the SARS scare gets more scary these days, the portion "ABS Pretty Green Stories" continues to present testimonials from herbal medicine users who remain healthy and unperturbed by the dreaded disease.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	XEREX
Ali 2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
Ali 3	JOHNNY ENGLISH
Ali 4	X-MEN 2
Ali 5	X-MEN 2
Ali 6	PHONE BOOTH
Ali 7	EQUILIBRIUM
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	X-MEN 2
Farmers 2	XEREX
ARANETA COLISEUM	
MAY 4	PBA GAMES
MAY 5 & 7	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
MAY 9 & 10	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
ELEPHANT WORLD	
FUN RIDES	START
TAGADISCO	4PM
VIKING SHIP	(DAILY)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Two more video 'pirates' convicted

'No. 1 critic' now lauds RP anti-piracy drive

By Marinel R. Cruz

A LEGAZPI City court has convicted a couple for illegal production of compact discs (CDs) and digital video discs (DVDs) or piracy.

Judge Cesar Bordeos of Branch 7 of the Legazpi City Regional Trial Court sentenced Jaime and Maria Cristina Chan to imprisonment of three months and a day to one year each, without probation. The judge also fined each P50,000 for each offense.

The couple's conviction came even as a United States official commended Philippine government efforts to fight piracy. William Lash III, the US assistant secretary for market access and compliance, was the very same official who earlier lashed at the Philippine government for not doing enough to stamp out piracy.

According to the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB), the Chans violated Sections 6 and 7 of Presidential Decree 1987, also known as the anti-piracy law.

The conviction of the Chans came just a month after another court found seven Indonesians and five Chinese guilty of producing pirated video discs.

The Chans were first convicted in 1998 by a Legazpi City municipal trial court judge. The regional trial court affirmed their conviction.

Early this year, Lash came to the Philippines and criticized the government for not doing enough to battle piracy. He had bought pirated copies of Hollywood movies in Virra Mall in Greenhills, San Juan.

Lash had said the Philippines would likely remain on the priority US watchlist of countries where there are rampant violations of intellectual property rights.

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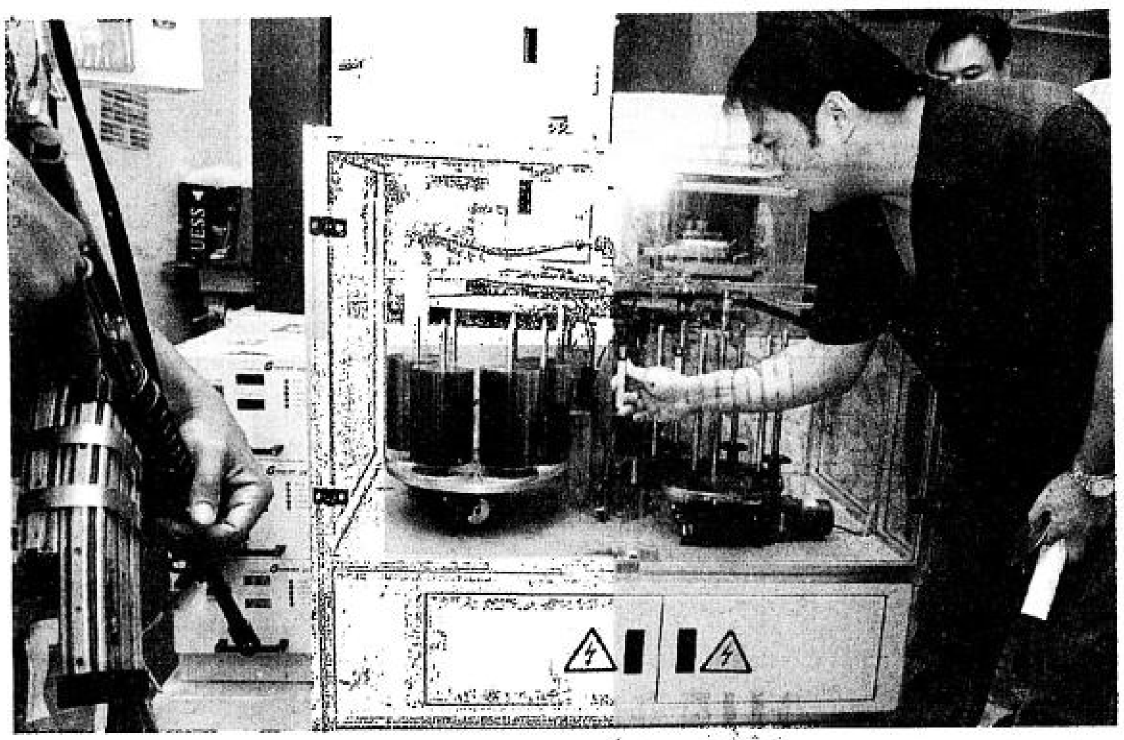

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From page C3

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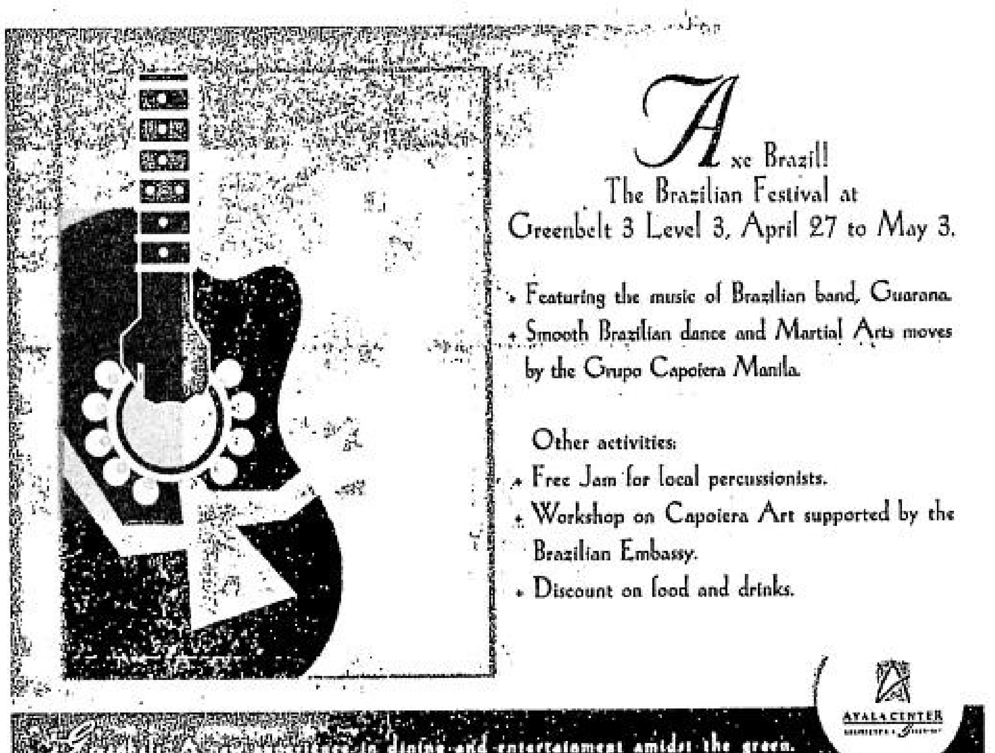

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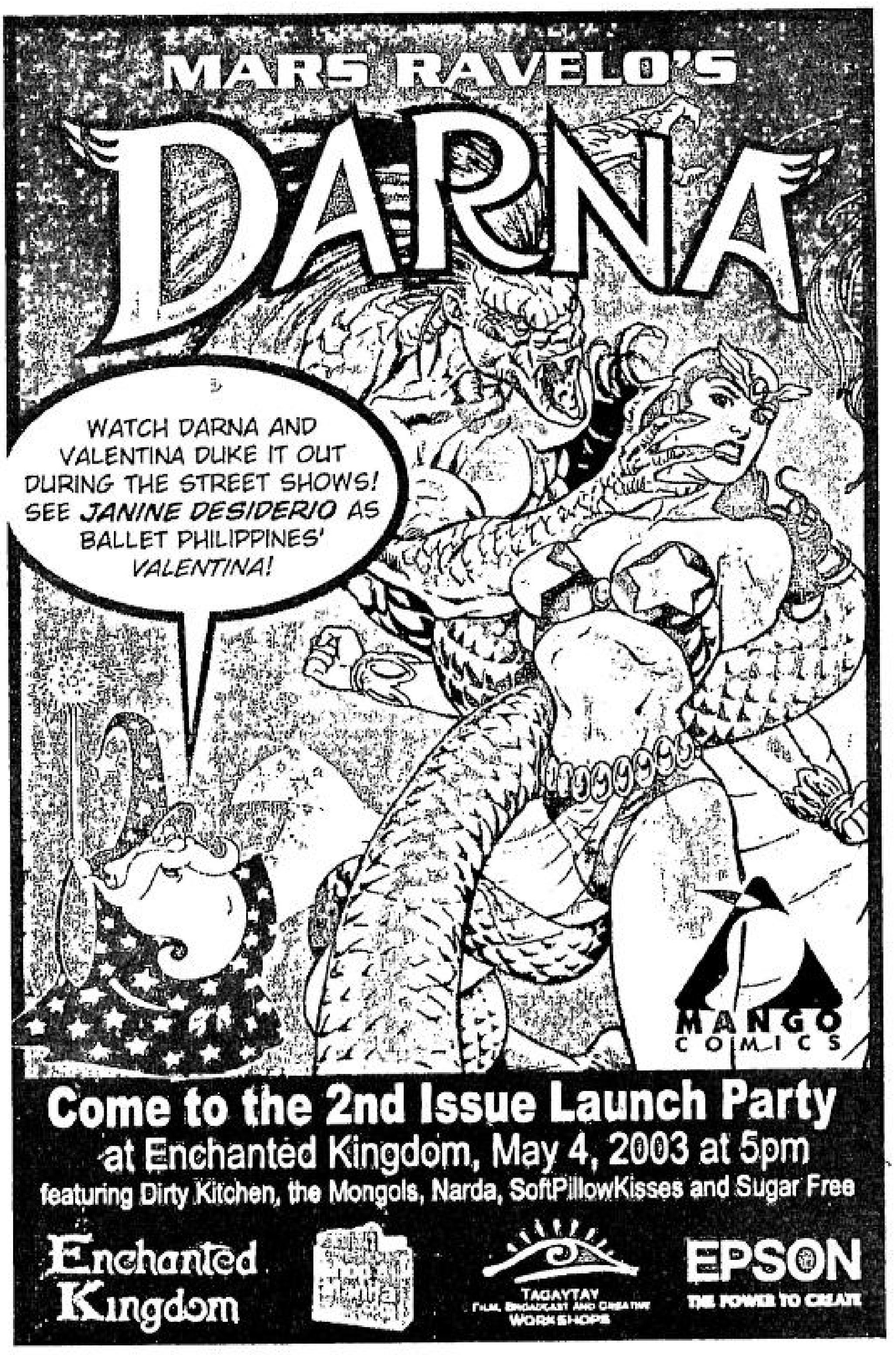

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Two more video 'pirates' convicted

'No. 1 critic' now lauds RP anti-piracy drive

By Marinel R. Cruz

A LEGAZPI City court has convicted a couple for illegal production of compact discs (CDs) and digital video discs (DVDs) or piracy.

Judge Cesar Bordeos of Branch 7 of the Legazpi City Regional Trial Court sentenced Jaime and Maria Cristina Chan to imprisonment of three months and a day to one year each, without probation. The judge also fined each ₱50,000 for each offense.

The couple's conviction came even as a United States official commended Philippine government efforts to fight piracy. William Lash III, the US assistant secretary for market access and compliance, was the very same official who earlier lashed at the Philippine government for not doing enough to stamp out piracy.

According to the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB), the Chans violated Sections 6 and 7 of Presidential Decree 1987, also known as the anti-piracy law.

The conviction of the Chans came just a month after another court found seven Indonesians and five Chinese guilty of producing pirated video discs.

The Chans were first convicted in 1998 by a Legazpi City municipal trial court judge. The regional trial court affirmed their conviction.

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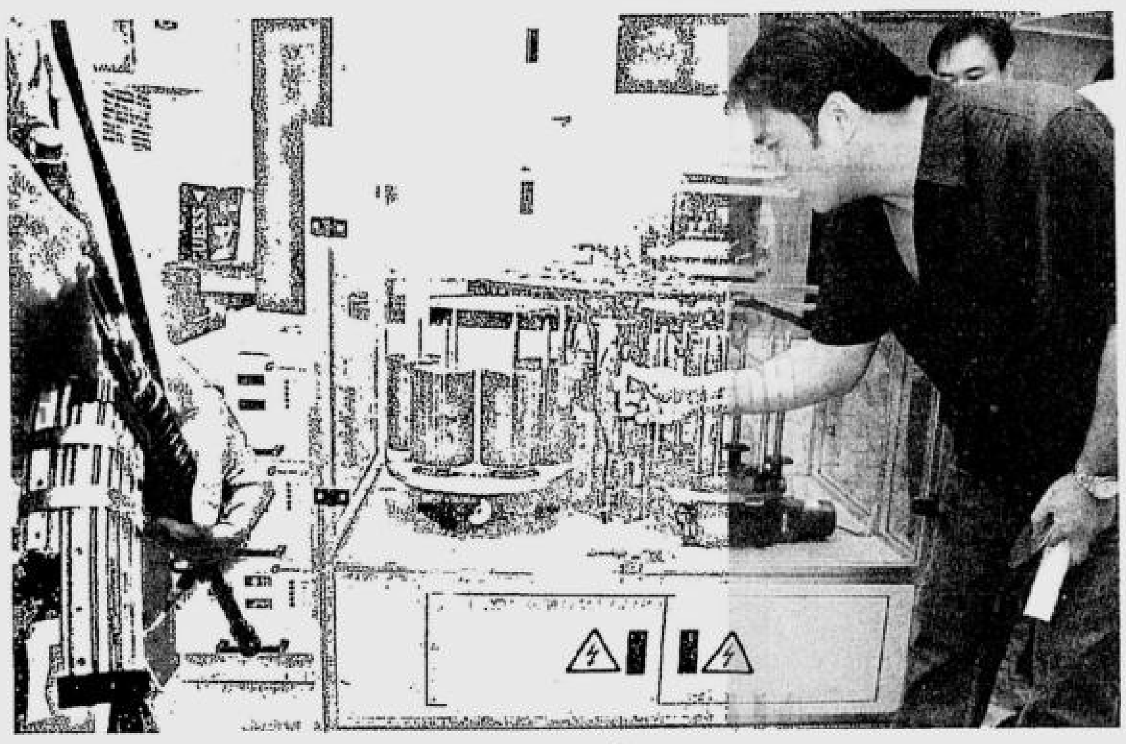

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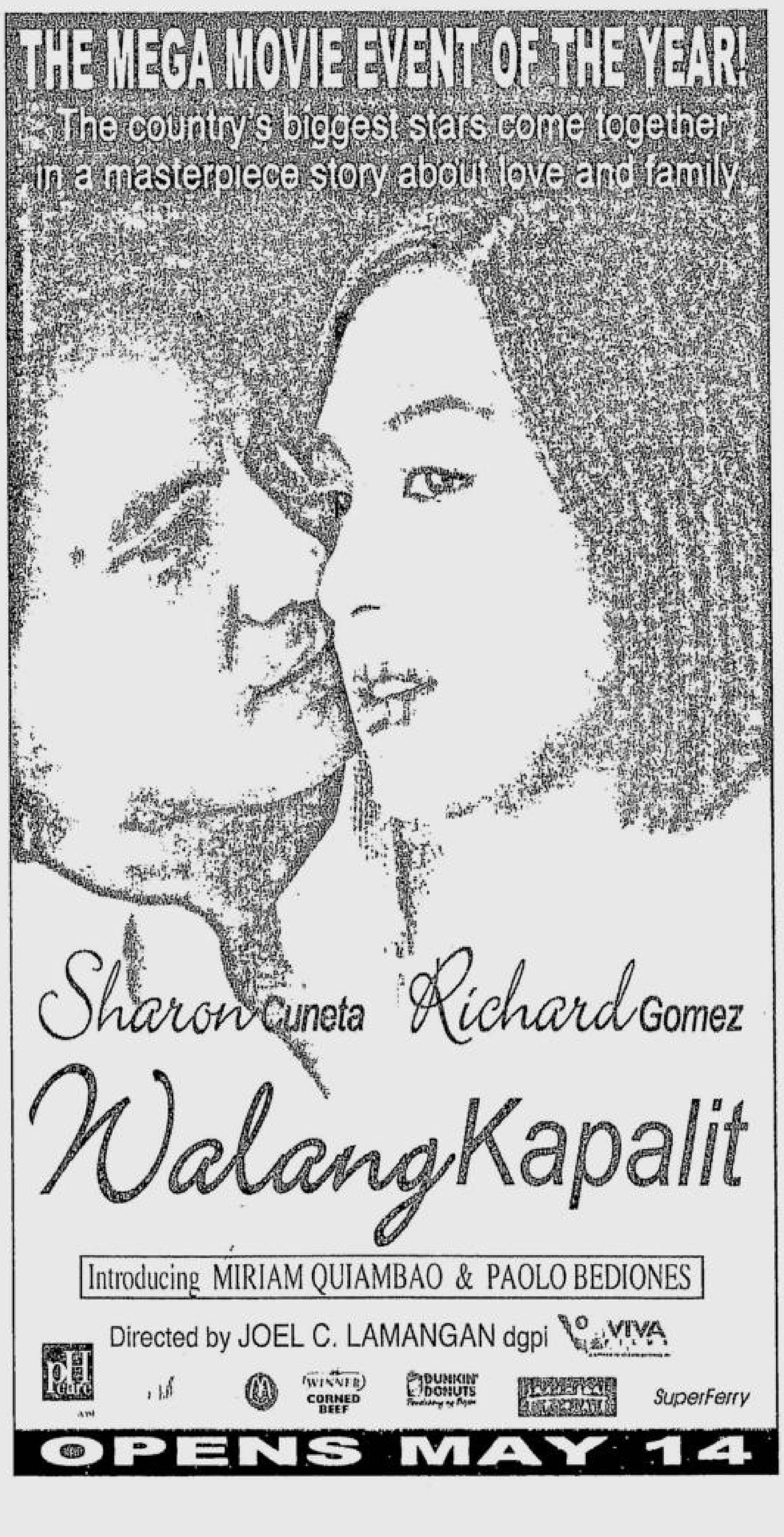

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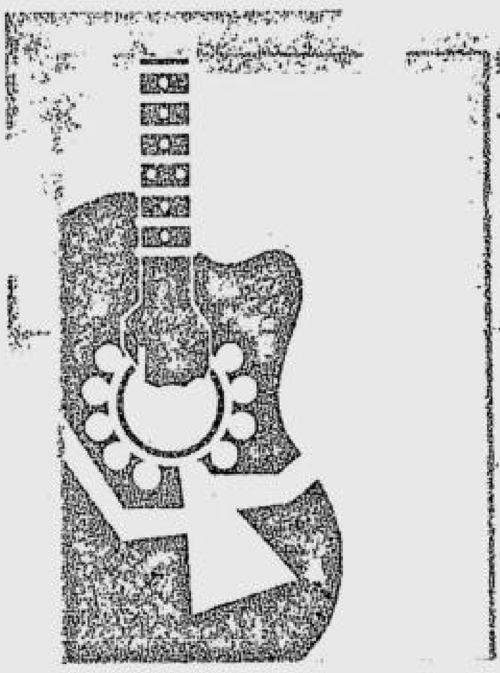

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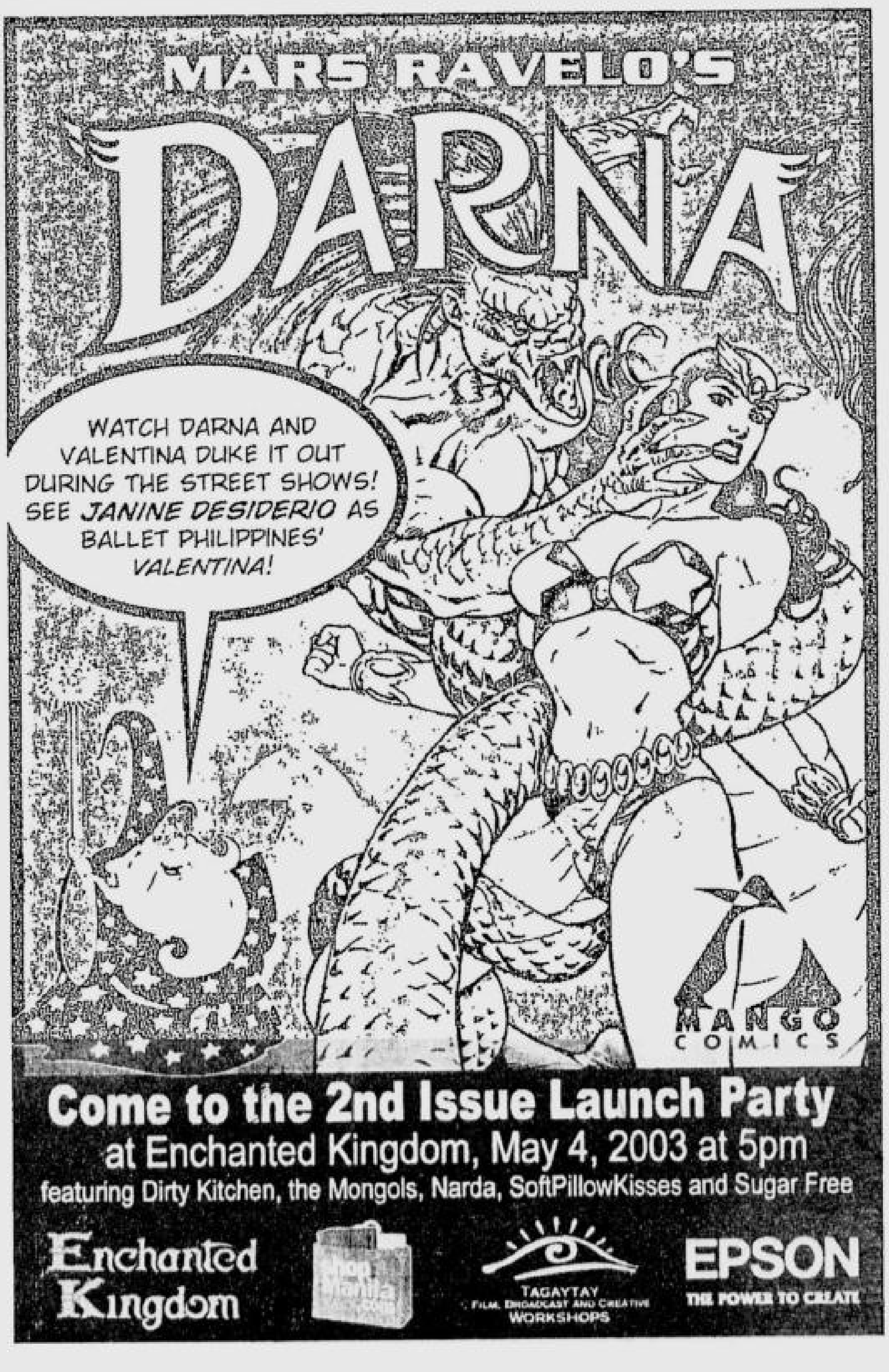
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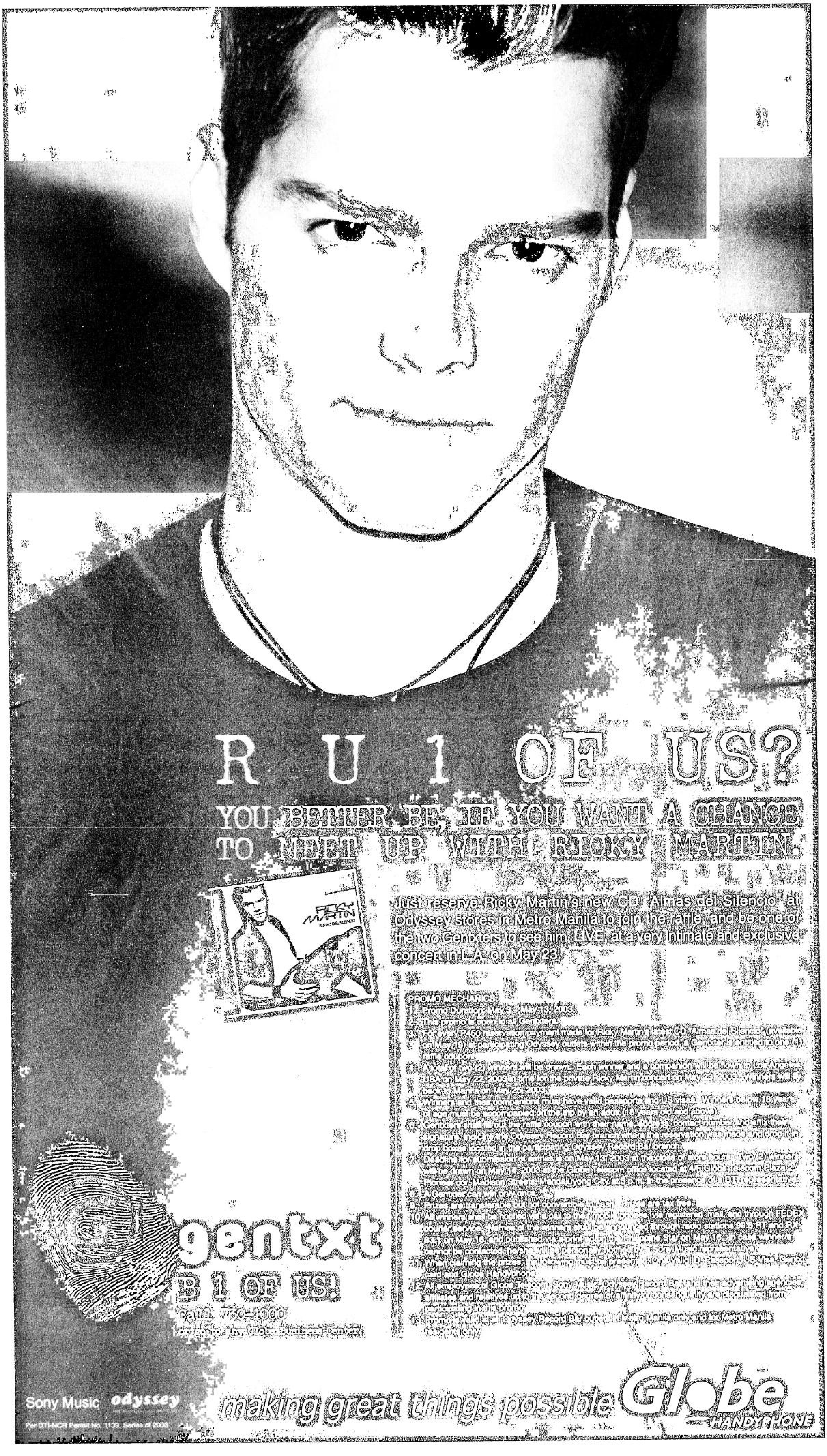

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Just reserve Ricky Martin's new CD "Almas del Silencio" at Odyssey stores in Metro Manila to join the raffle, and be one of the two Gentxters to see him LIVE at a very intimate and exclusive concert in L.A. on May 23.

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. Promo Duration: May 3 - May 13, 2003
2. This promo is open to all Gentxters.
3. For every P450 reservation payment made for Ricky Martin's latest CD "Almas del Silencio" (available on May 19) at participating Odyssey outlets within the promo period, a Gentxter is entitled to one (1) raffle coupon.
4. A total of two (2) winners will be drawn. Each winner and a companion will be flown to Los Angeles, USA on May 22, 2003 in time for the private Ricky Martin concert on May 23, 2003. Winners will fly back to Manila on May 25, 2003.
5. Winners and their companions must have valid passports and US visas. Winners below 18 years of age must be accompanied on the trip by an adult (18 years old and above).
6. Gentxters shall fill out the raffle coupon with their name, address, contact number and affix their signature, indicate the Odyssey Record Bar branch where the reservation was made and drop it in drop boxes located in the participating Odyssey Record Bar branches.
7. Deadline for submission of entries is on May 13, 2003 at the close of store hours. Two (2) winners will be drawn on May 14, 2003 at the Globe Telecom office located at 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza 2, Pioneer cor. Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City at 3 p.m. in the presence of a DTI representative.
8. A Gentxter can win only once.
9. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash. [illegible] are tax free.
10. All winners shall be notified via a call to their mobile [illegible] via registered mail, and through FEDEX courier services. The names of the winners shall be announced through radio stations 99.5 RT and RX 93.1 on May 16, and published via a print ad [illegible] Star on May 18. In case winners cannot be contacted, he/she will be personally notified by a Sony Music representative.
11. When claiming the prizes, [illegible] Valid ID, Passport, US Visa, Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone.
12. All employees of Globe Telecom, Sony Music, Odyssey Record Bar and their advertising agencies, affiliates and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from participating in the promo.
13. Promo is valid at all Odyssey Record Bar outlets in Metro Manila only and for Metro Manila residents only.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1139, Series of 2003

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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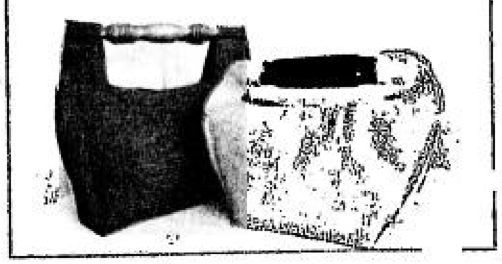

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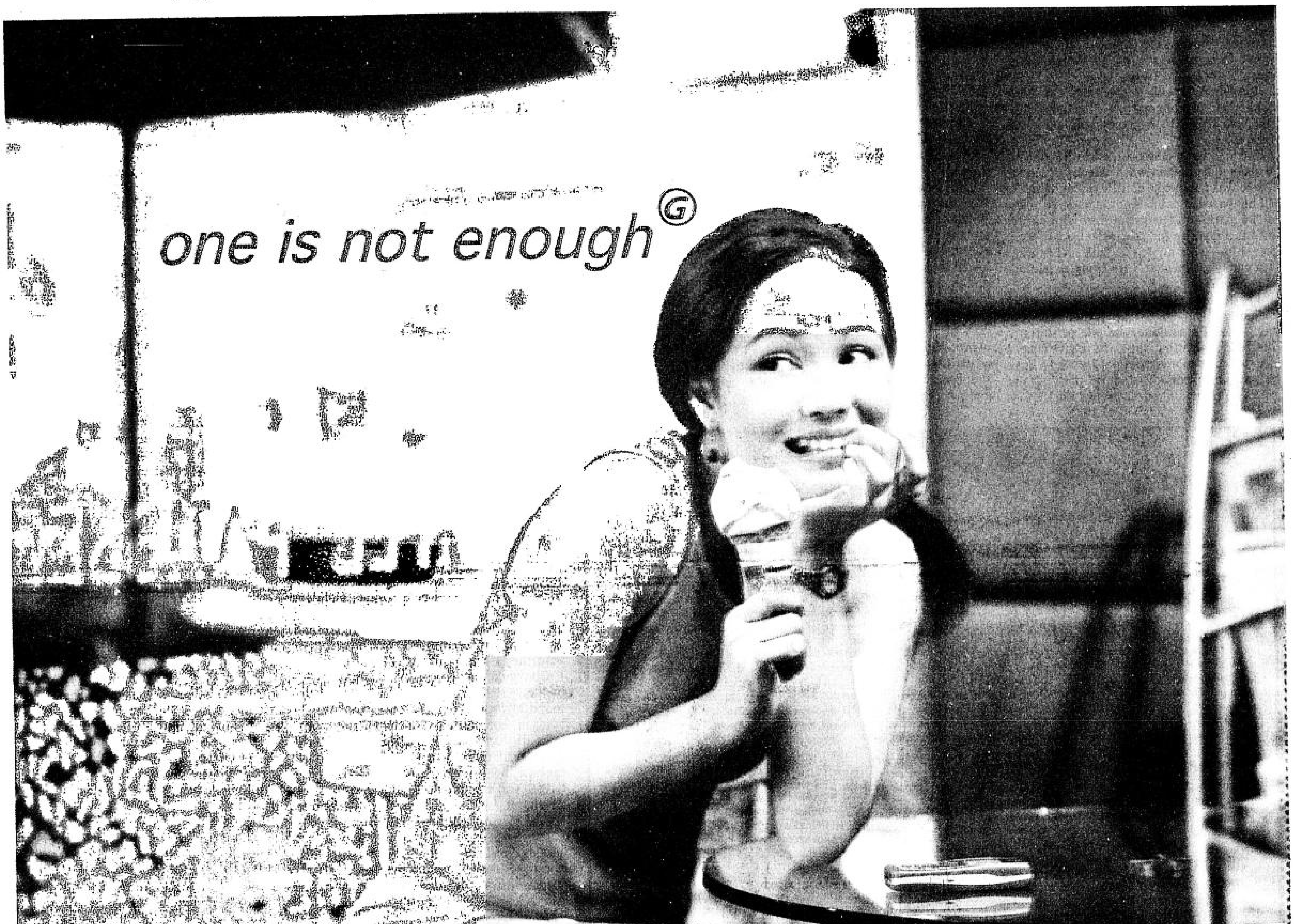

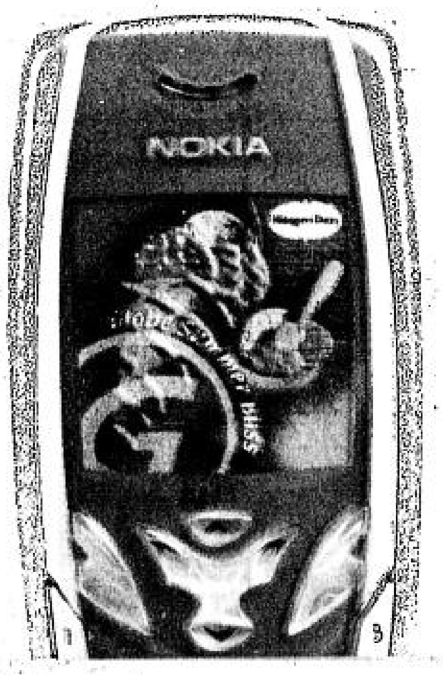

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Just download a Globe Summer Bliss MMS coupon, show it at any Häagen-Dazs shop and take out a single cone serving of your favorite flavor for only P29.50. Globe will pay for the rest.

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SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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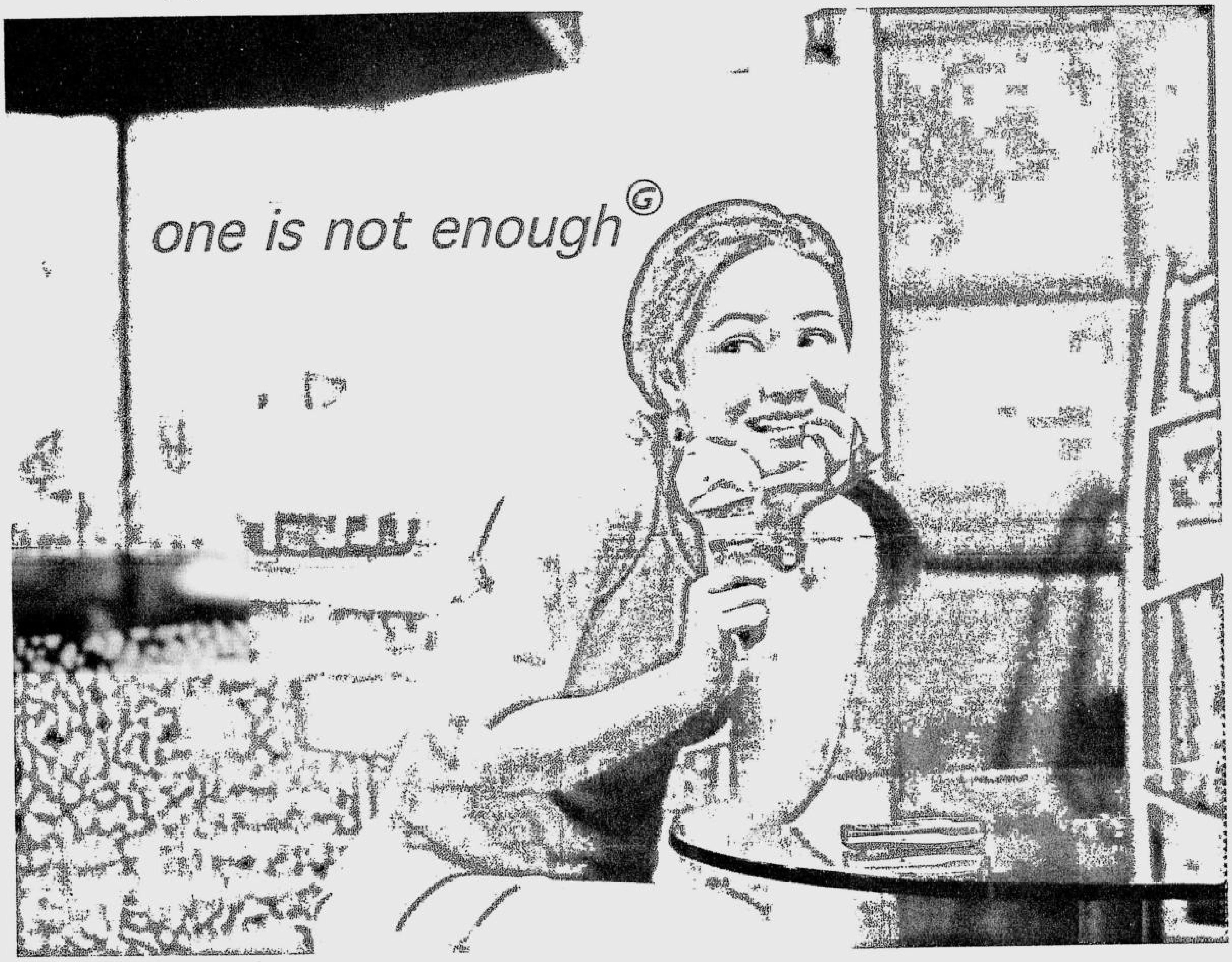

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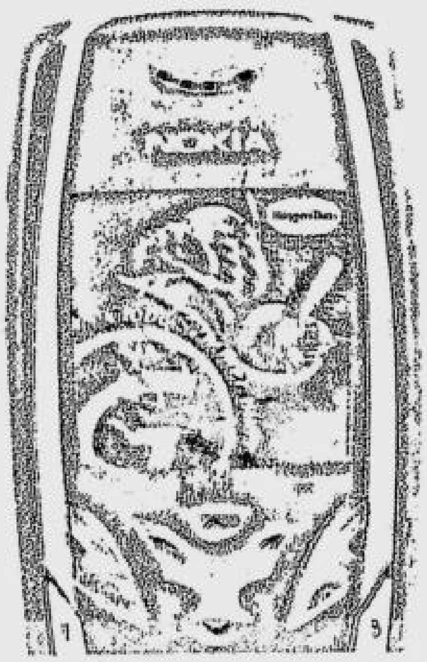

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The empty nest

By Elsie Kalaw Santos
Contributor

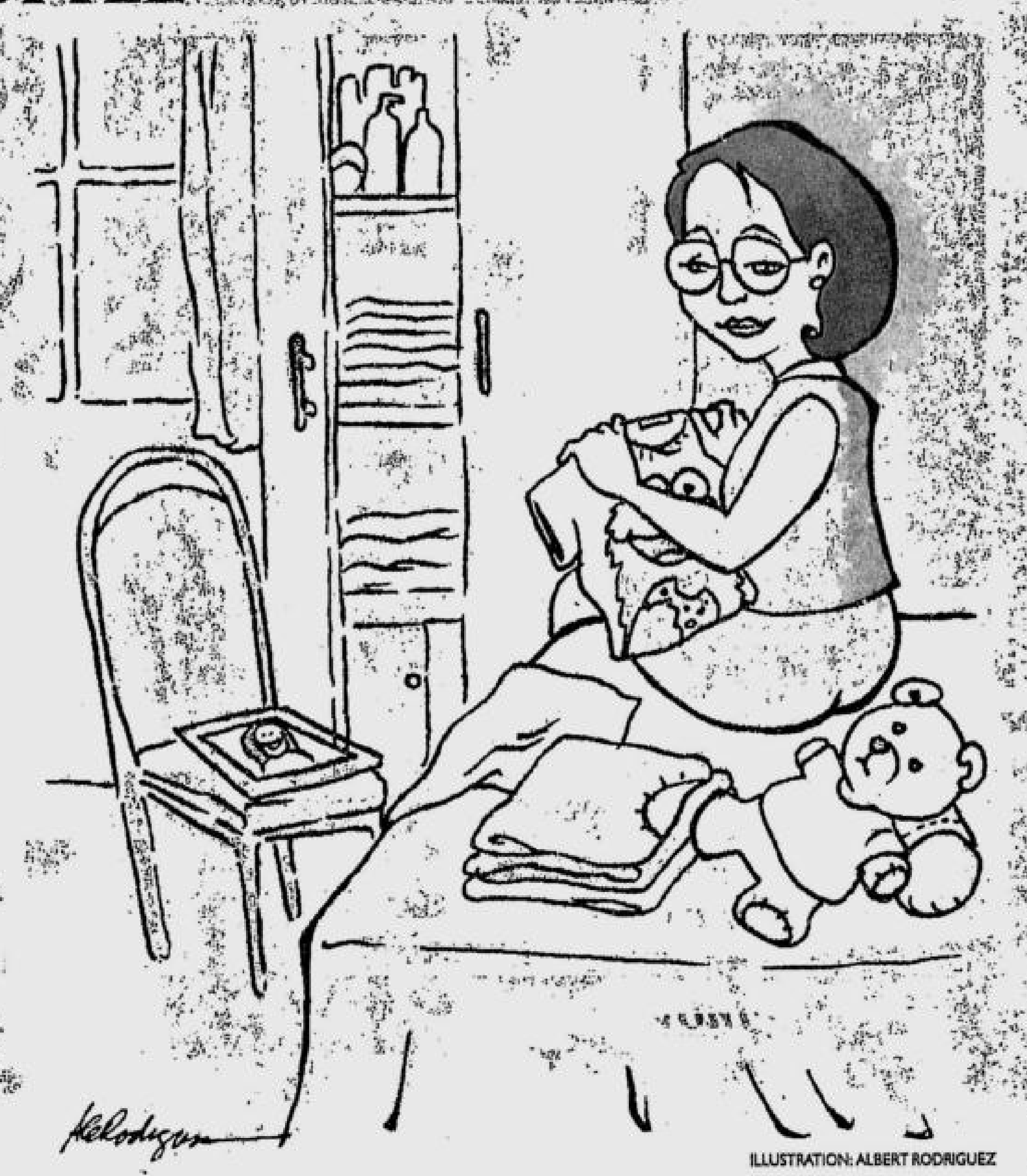

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A FEW months ago, a question was texted to me: "What do I do with my son's things? He has decided to stay abroad."

Without hesitation, I texted back: "Give him six months to confirm his decision. After that give away all his clothes and shoes, and keep all the memorabilia (photos, birth documents, other important stuff) in a box."

I am aware that my response sounded like I was dealing with another administrative detail at work—cold and efficient. I was hardly that at all when I dealt with a vacated room in my own home.

A vacated room is the first step to an empty nest. I did not realize that until people remarked about the vacant room: "So you've got an empty nest."

When our daughter left us in 2001 we knew she was not coming back. She had other plans and we respected that. We left her room intact though; we still hoped she would return.

But when her college sweetheart called to ask for her hand in marriage, the first thing I did was to go to her room. It had to be cleared.

She had left a closet full of clothes, mostly T-shirts that she had worn since high school. There was the purple shirt with the names of all her *barkada* painted at the back; the class of '96 shirt; an aqua green shirt with paisley prints, a favorite for years; the Cookie Monster shirt—what do you do with such stuff so intimately connected with your daughter's childhood?

I segregated. The older the shirt, the more meaning it had, so it was set aside for keeping. When I was done, the pile of shirts to keep was higher than the shirts to give away. I decided to be more resolute. I grabbed a huge yellow plastic bag and dumped both piles of shirts in. Then I sighed with relief. The clothes have since been distributed in Tarlac, my husband's hometown.

The stuffed toys and trinkets that had been collecting dust anyway were packed in individual plastic bags to give away to officemates with kids. Her books, photo albums, framed photos, school trophies, year books, CDs and VHS tapes are intact, scattered strategically around the house, signs that once upon a time, a child lived here.

Clearing the room did not happen all at once. I had set the deadline for July as the total cleanup, ready for occupancy by her brother who had wanted the room.

But August came, then September and October and the room was still a mess. There were still a lot of papers, magazines and other stuff to be classified.

In charge

One weekend, my son, ever the man in charge, came home with two huge hard plastic containers and stuffed all the etceteras in. No particular order. Within the day he claimed the room.

Besides the daughter, the only other child is this son who is a healthy 24-year-old with a fiancée and a job that demands much of his time. The time left for home is just a fraction of his life. I'm sure he still lives with us; there is always a fresh pile of dirty clothes in his room. By the end of the year I will have to deal with the room he will vacate after his wedding.

Life is not at all dreary, though, not with our canine daughters, three female shepherd-spitzes who have captured our hearts and full attention.

Chikki is the first dog ever to have been allowed into the house, a privilege granted upon the pleading of my son. We got her as a 2-month-old black pup from a friend whose huge full-blooded German shepherd paired up with the household's tiny spitz while on night patrol. Two years ago, Chikki was mated with another full German shepherd and she gave birth to seven pups. We kept Greta and Kwepee.

> With a daughter abroad and a son set to marry and move out, the house may seem a bit lonelier but also pregnant with possibilities

Our canine wards have dominated our lives. My husband and I talk endlessly about Greta's latest mischief or Kwepee's acrobatics or Chikki's special child syndrome. We first became aware of this when we were caught for more than an hour in a traffic jam. When the cars were finally moving, I told my husband: "Do you realize we spent the whole past hour talking about our dogs?" We just looked at each other and laughed. We were fine.

In the mornings, as soon as the sun is up, Greta and Kwepee, fully charged with adrenaline, barge into our bedroom to pounce on their master, licking his face and hands repeatedly until they hear his chuckle. After this one-minute ritual, they both march out, visibly calmed and proud that they have awakened their master. Chikki, a permanent resident of our bedroom, sometimes joins in the fray, but she stays put in our room till I get up and out of the room.

Advantage

Over the past year, my husband and I have adjusted to the fact that we are again a twosome, after 26 years of marriage. Holidays and weekends are planned for just the two of us; if our son and his fiancée are available and willing to join us they are welcome; otherwise, they are not obliged to be with us.

On regular days, meals are set for two with the tablecloth spread just halfway across the round table for four. The other half usually holds my computer and documents. Preparations are lean. Half a kilo of meat would yield leftovers for one or two more meals. So I cook the pork, beef and chicken into viands whose flavors will be enhanced with two to three days storage in the ref. Easier on my time and efforts. When there are small fish to fry, my husband has to specify the number of pieces he can consume so there are no leftovers. Nothing is more irritating than to have a refrigerator full of microwave-safe plastic containers, each one holding a morsel of meat or fish or rice.

One advantage of an empty nest is indulging in the pleasure of listening to the full CDs or tapes of Barbra Streisand, Nat King Cole and the Beatles, in the privacy of either the car or our living room. It was always frustrating to be singing with Barbra in the car when a hand would jut out front from behind reaching for the buttons of the car stereo to change stations or tape.

With this new phase in our lives, I've figured this must be the time for which I've been collecting "special" pieces. Thus, on weekends, when there are four of us dining, it is my Noritake china in use.

Last Christmas *noche buena*, I spread out the lavishly hand-embroidered tablecloth with matching napkins, heirloom pieces from my mother. Ten years ago, nobody wanted to claim them because they had yellow patches all over from years of storage. Always a lover of the old, I took them home and stored them for another eight years before I brought them out and handwashed them with Ariel. It worked. Now I have elegant table pieces for our special occasions.

No, I am not eagerly awaiting grandchildren. I've warned my two children that I will not be a caregiver to my *apos*; that if they will not have time to take care of their own children, they just better take in dogs.

I do miss my children terribly. Every now and then I half-expect to come upon my little daughter lying in her bed, a book on her right hand while the fingers on her left hand twirl her locks, or have the chubby boy home from school sweaty and dirty plopped on my lap excitedly recounting his adventures for the day. I miss having their huge bodies cuddled up with us in bed while watching television.

But I am extremely proud of the persons they have become and of the lives they have chosen for themselves.

The empty nest is a welcome break. Now I have the time to reconnect with my being; a time to clear my spirit of clogs.

But that is another story.

The Experts Speak Up!

Michael Alexius A. Sarte, MD, FPSOHNS, PSSM
Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon
Specialist, Snoring and Sleep Disorders
Section Unit Head, Center For Snoring
and Sleep Disorders (The Medical City)

Maintaining Health in Mind and Body
Protecting yourself against ailments and infections

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This famous adage depicts the remarkable wisdom of our forefathers who believed that staying healthy beats recovering from illnesses.

Having good health is more than just the absence of health problems. It is also taking the responsibility to avoid them.

Such learning is appropriate especially in these times of epidemic scares, when viruses lurk just around the corner. A relevant example of this is SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), a potentially-devastating transmittable respiratory illness that is reported to have spread across Asia, North America, and Europe.

While there is no hard evidence yet that taking any medicine will prevent one from getting SARS, many experts believe that many ailments, viral infections included, can be prevented by practicing healthy lifestyle measures. Our lifestyle and hygienic practices greatly influence our well-being and may consequently dictate the states of our physical, emotional, and mental health. This article provides some basic tips in keeping a healthy lifestyle and preventing the onslaught of disease.

Observe proper hygiene and health measures.

Personal hygiene and grooming is the first step to good health. Improper hygiene practices may cause problems we aren't usually aware of like bad breath and dandruff. Eventually, bad hygiene may result in serious health problems. As a precaution, always wash your hands and take a bath daily. Hand washing prevents the spread of viruses and bacteria such as the corona virus which is being implicated in SARS. Like other respiratory illnesses, SARS is proven to have a wide reach of clinical signs and symptoms from sore throat to fever and even diarrhea. One of the ways SARS is thought to be transmitted is through inhalation of droplets - microscopic drops of liquid that are usually produced from sneezing or coughing. Droplet transmission is thought to be optimal from a distance up to three feet. Authorities have also identified the use of the N95 mask as an effective way of avoiding SARS droplet transmission. Other types of surgical masks may also help but are thought to be less efficient in filtering particulate matter.

Exercise regularly.

Regular exercise is essential for achieving optimal health and development. Sustained use of the muscles stimulates tissues and improves circulation of the blood while cleaning the body cells in the process. With exercise, digestive glands are able to secrete fluids better, thus permitting easier bowel movement. Regular exercise prevents weakening of the muscles that may cause backaches, bad posture, and other musculoskeletal pains. It also reduces the risk of heart problems, anemia, asthma, cancer, and osteoporosis. A word of caution: too intense a workout can possibly cause the weakening of the immune system.

Watch your diet.

A balanced and nutritious diet should be maintained to adequately provide the body with the essential vitamins and nutrients. Sugar and caffeine intakes should be limited, while foods high in vitamins C, E, zinc, beta-carotene and selenium--antioxidants that strengthen our immune system--should be taken in abundance. Fruits, vegetables, and grains are rich in these vitamins and minerals. A balanced diet helps lower the risk of cancer, heart diseases, stroke, diabetes, and respiratory ailments such as SARS.

Reduce stress.

Stress is an unavoidable circumstance in life. Managing it is always easier said than done. Nevertheless, it is important to ensure a healthy body. Some techniques recommended by the experts are: think positive thoughts, play with your pets, listen to soothing music, watch a funny movie, get a massage, a facial or a haircut, and meditate.

Practice Good Sleeping Habits.

Sleep is the time for your body to regenerate itself most specially during deep sleep as it will refresh you and keep your immune status intact. Maintaining around seven regular hours of sleep at night is healthful. Other helpful hints:

- Using deep-muscle relaxation techniques or meditation & avoiding feelings of anxiety and depression that may release stress hormones and suppress your immune status.
- Exercising, but not within a few hours of bedtime.
- Avoiding alcohol and caffeine near bedtime, as well as late-night eating.
- Using your bedroom only for sleeping and sex.
- Leaving your bedroom if you can't get to sleep in 20 minutes of trying, and performing some quiet activity, such as reading.
- Getting up at the same time each day.

Your efforts in avoiding diseases and ailments will not be in vain. Let it be your investment to achieve good health and a happy future. In these times, an ounce of prevention is worth so much more than a pound of cure.

Next week, an update on SARS and other useful tips on how to avoid it!

We'd like to hear from you!

Text us your answers to the following questions at 0917-8PFIZER (0917-8734937) or 0918-9PFIZER (0918-9734937) and get a chance to win a Pfizer gift pack!

1. Have you been taking adequate measures to prevent SARS? Y N
2. Have you consulted a specialist about this? Y N

To answer, text PFI (space), ENT (space), 6 (space), your answers (space), your name (space) and your complete address.

Example: PFI ENT 6 YN Paul Reyes 8 Macopa St., Project 7, Q.C.

Join now and win a special Pfizer gift pack! Lucky texters can get the chance of winning free samples!

Note: Make sure to indicate your complete address for the sending of the Pfizer gift pack.

Should you have any questions about ENT or comments regarding this column, please email to Pfizer ENT (bactidol@pfizer.com). You can also text 0917-8PFIZER (0917-8734937) or 0918-9PFIZER (0918-9734937) and type in PFI (space), ENT (space), your question or comment.

A health update from the throat care experts, PSO-HNS and Bactidol.

Hexetidine Bactidol®

On-the-spot painting tilt for students

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc. (BayanTel), in partnership with the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) and Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC), will hold "Alay ng BayanTel, Sining para sa Kabataan," an on-the-spot painting competition for young students, on May 10. The contest aims to encourage the development of young artistic minds in households of BayanTel subscribers in Metro Manila.

Open to high school students who are children of BayanTel residential subscribers in Metro Manila franchise areas, BayanTel received 80 applications for the contest. Winning entries shall receive a cash prize of up to P20,000 and will be featured as cover in BayanTel's telephone directory for its local exchange service areas all over the country.

Mike Cervantes, BayanTel vice president for marketing services, said the favorable turnout of participants in the competition recognizes the event as a productive activity during summer for students who want to develop a career in the arts.

AAP president Fidel Sarmiento expressed their full support for the project by rendering their expertise in determining the winners. They also lauded BayanTel for the project, as it supports their vision of developing a grassroots program for the arts.

SOROPTIMIST REUNION
BAGUIO City was the venue of the grand reunion of the SIPR Governor's Group of Biennium 2000-2002. Photo shows governor Tes Choa (seated fourth from left) flanked by (seated from left) Cely Ng, Agnes Valencia, Nena Nolido, Long Jim and Pas Abis; (standing from left) Erlin Tagle, Ligaya Tankeh, Ness Bugnosen, Meding Jacinto, Esther Ong, Banjie Tancingco, Vicky Franco, Adeling Royo, Vernie Gonzalez and Laling Ordoñez.

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Abstract paintings of late Swiss artist exhibited in Cebu

From page D4

and **Antony Jackson** (UK). No need to introduce Michel and Amparito Lhuillier nor **Sergio Wong Jr.** and **Raul Murillo**, whom Ambassador Favre had earlier met. Actually this was her second visit to Cebu, the first was last September when the Arts Council presented Trio La Tache.

At the start of the dinner Ambassador Favre thanked her guests for coming, and expressed what a great pleasure it was to be in Cebu once more. She pointed out that the occasion was most apt, as we all now knew that aside from cheeses, chocolates, watches, knives and banks, Switzerland is also famous for art.

CEBU Arts Council president Petite Garcia

Great applause came from the Arts Council members—**Fe Sala Villarica, Tessie Pablo** and **Vivina Yrastorza**, who took Favre on a tour of venues for cultural events.

Ambassador Favre promises to return to Cebu on Aug. 1, for a reception not just to mark the Swiss Confederation's National Day but to launch a book depicting 150 years of Philippine-Swiss relations since the first Swiss Consulate was established in Manila.

A postscript to the Ramo art exhibit: Only a portion of his 2,500 abstract works were exhibited up to April 30. An entirely new set will be prepared for an exhibit at SM City Cebu in June, and another new set for another expo at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort. Still one more set of fresh paintings will be scheduled for showing in Manila, before 2003 is over.

MARKUS Stern with art collectors Alice Plaza and Victoria Hermosisima

HSBC Super Offer returns to tickle the Pinoy shopping fetish

The coolest reward points redemption promo in town from the world's local bank.

ALL the coolest treats for less cash, less points — the Pinoy's dream shopping scenario. That's what the world's local bank aims to fulfill with its latest Super Offer promo this May.

From cool treats like Sony 14-inch flat screen TVs, Samsung DVDs with karaoke, portable washing machines, electric ovens, electric grillers, sandwich makers, Philips facial saunas and Philips hair styler sets, to treats that will help you literally chill in the smoldering summer heat like desk fans and even an LG room air conditioner!

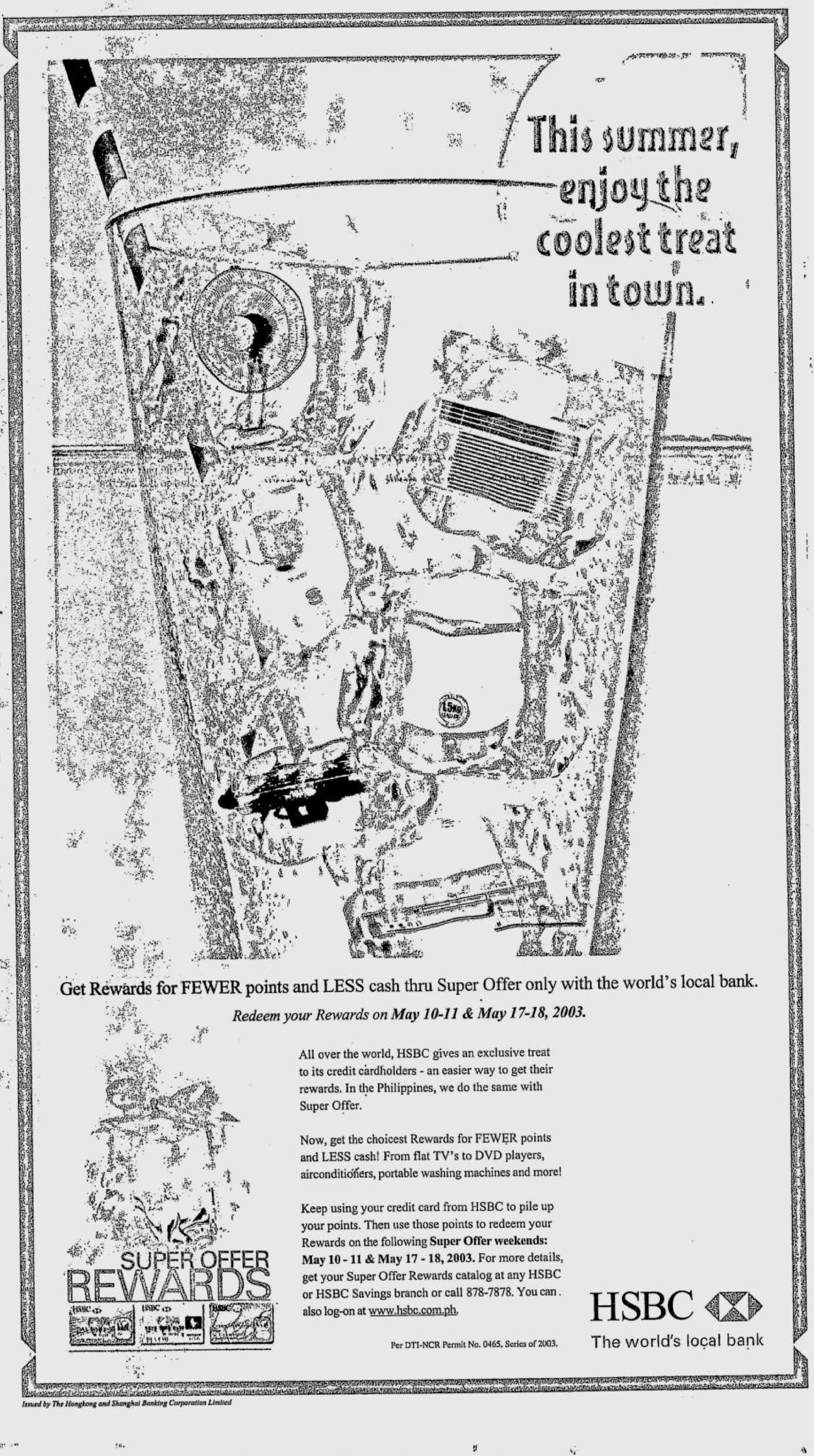
All you need — aside from being a shopping-savvy, bargain-hunting Pinoy — is to be an HSBC cardholder. Simply call the Super Offer hotline at 878 7880 during the Super Offer weekends of 10-11 and 17-18 May 2003, from 9am to 5pm to check your latest rewards points balance and tell the HSBC Super Offer representative which 2 items you want from the Super Offer catalog — that's it! All you have to do now is wait for your Super Offer Claim Advice and troop down to the SM Appliance Center of your choice. You even have the option of using pure points to redeem your rewards during the whole months of April and May. That's appliance shopping with absolutely no cash out!

HSBC, the world's local bank, understands the Filipino's love for bargains and acknowledges the thrill they experience from getting big deal appliances for less or absolutely no cash at all. Thus, the idea of Super Offer— an easy and convenient opportunity for the Filipino shopper to get a whole lot more from what they've paid for using their HSBC credit cards. Not just convenience and privileges, but a whole lot more value from your credit card. If you're not an HSBC cardholder yet, apply now and get to experience the delight of the next Super Offer coming soon, aside from a host of other exclusive HSBC credit cardholder privileges.

And if you're already a privileged cardholder, just keep using your HSBC credit cards, rack up those points, and redeem your cool rewards from summer's coolest treat only from HSBC!

To know more about the cool treats up for grabs, see Super Offer catalogs found at every HSBC branch or simply log-on to www.hsbc.com.ph.

ADVT



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Abstract paintings of late Swiss artist exhibited in Cebu

> The vibrant, intense and colorful strokes reflected the density of Ramo's feelings.

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

DR. MARC Studer was born, raised and educated in Switzerland. A doctorate in Economics qualified him to run the family business (high-precision grinding the machines) with over 600 employees in Brazil, USA, and Switzerland itself. He also set up personal computer sales and service companies run by his best friend **Reto Feuerstein.**

Dr. Studer collected books, records, glass art and enough abstract paintings to form an impressive legacy. Few people—close relations and intimate friends—knew he was an indefatigable painter of abstract art. Canvas in various sizes and paints of all colors had to be readily available when inspiration struck.

The vibrant, intense and colorful strokes reflected the density of his feelings, the spontaneity of his moods, and inherent sense of aesthetic perspective. He painted under the name of Ramo, which is Portuguese for "bush," the English equivalent of "Studer." Upon his untimely death at 49, in 1990, all 2,500 of Ramo's works were left to Reto Feuerstein with instructions that the public not see them until at least 10 years had passed.

At that time, little did Reto expect that a few years later he would move from Switzerland to Cebu. Destiny further led him to run an orchid farm in the resort town of Moalboal, southwest of Cebu City, along the coast facing Negros Island. It is well known to divers all over the world.

Reto brought all of Ramo's paintings to Cebu. He photographed each in sunlight, and put all the pictures in a CD. Then he went to **Araceli Valero** of Manila Arts Frames and asked her to make special frames. The works were recently exhibited at Europa Deli's restaurant on Ramos Street.

FORMAL dinner at Europa: Canada's Robert and Anna Lee, Ambassador Lise Favre and Rep. Raul del Mar

That's also where **Markus Stern**, honorary consul of Switzerland, holds office. The public began to notice the beautiful works, and a formal opening of an exhibit became imperative, at the lobby lounge of the Waterfront Hotel.

H.E. Lise Favre, Switzerland's Ambassador to the Philippines, was the guest of honor. Cutting the ribbon with her were Cebu City Mayor **Tommy Osmeña**, Consul Markus Stern and Reto Feuerstein. Art collectors, knowing how these paintings will appreciate highly once put in the international market, came to snap up their favorites. Prices range from P1,000 to P100,000, we were told by **George Rondina** and **Steven Scheurch**, who supervised this world premiere exhibit held until April 30.

It was a well-attended cocktail reception that followed, with chef **Dietmar Dietrich** congratulated for the excellent buffet fare, and the wines which were from Europa. **Michel** and **Amparito Lhuillier** were present and asked Ambassador Favre, Markus Stern and some friends like Talisay City's First Lady **Norma Selma Gullas** to an elaborate lauriat at the Waterfront's Tin Gow restaurant.

Next day, Ambassador Favre went to Reto's Orchid Gallery in Moalboal where she was welcomed by Mayor **Inocentes Cabaron** and Vice Mayor **Felix Pocong**. In Cebu City, there were official calls on **Mayor Osmeña, Gov. Pablo Garcia,** police chief **Josephus Angan, Joel Mari Yu** at the Cebu Investment Center, and **Remedios Llamson**, who heads the Mactan Export Processing Zone Area.

To conclude her visit, Lise Favre hosted a glittering formal dinner at Europa. Consul Stern did the introductions: Rep. **Raul del Mar**, Cebu City Vice Mayor **Michael Rama**, Visayas presidential assistant **Romulo Senining Jr., Rodio Rojas** from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Immigration's **Geronimo Rosas**, Judge **Rafael Yrastorza, Ferdinand Balbuena** from the provincial government, and NBI's **Zosimo Febrero.**

From the local Consular Corps came its chair **Enrique Benedicto** (Belgium), **Wu Lianqi** (China), **Takahashi Suzuki** (Japan), **Robert** and **Anna Lee** (Canada), **Richard Forteau** (France), **Moya**

ABSTRACT/ D3

RETO Feuertsein and Norma Gullas, first lady of Talisay City

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Gosh, isn't Colin Farell so yummy? Cute nya, sana magkasabay kami sa loob ng Phone Booth 2gthr. Ay! :-) heehee!
monday
You ha!? Always asking about the latest intriga in my life. Well, as long as u get the buzz from me lng. Wag maniniwala sa iba, bad yan!
wednesday
A woman bumpd in2 me knina whyl i was out. SO rude! didnt evn apologize! Hmph, fake naman ang PRADA nya! heehee :-)
friday
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Family

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Parenting is the greatest performance of her life

Text and photos by Tim Yap

GRETCHEN Barretto was her gregarious self. Clad in a simple white Mix tube top and Seven jeans, her hair was braided on both sides. The only makeup she had on was a butterfly on her right cheek that a face painter applied earlier during the party.

Yes, she did have diamonds (of course), but not the big-event, *pang*-awards-night variety. On her neck were baby stones the size of rainbow candy sprinkles she got from Kristine's.

But that's not the point. Her glow comes not from her jewelry or her clothes, but from the joy of motherhood.

That afternoon was all about that. Gretchen looked like a doting elder sister to daughter Dominique, who turned eight in an intimate celebration at Milky Way on Pasay Road that gathered the celebrator's friends from the British School and a few close friends and relatives.

Dominique was similarly clad in a white long sleeves top and denim mini skirt, with the braids to match her mom's.

This celebration was in stark contrast to Dominique's NBC Tent party that her parents threw for her when she turned seven last year.

Then again, according to superstition, a child's seventh year should really be marked with a big bang. That year, Dominique had giant slides constructed inside the NBC Tent plus television coverage.

This year was very modest in comparison, but it had all the ingredients that a fun-filled party should have.

TOUCHING LIVES. Dad Tony Boy Cojuangco

Magician Lou Hilario regaled the guests with his magic. Clowns and other performers did a yo-yo show that amazed the kids and amused the adults.

Chef Jay Gamboa and sister Malu made sure the food carts were filled, with native treats like lechon Cebu to children's party favorites like lasagna and fried chicken.

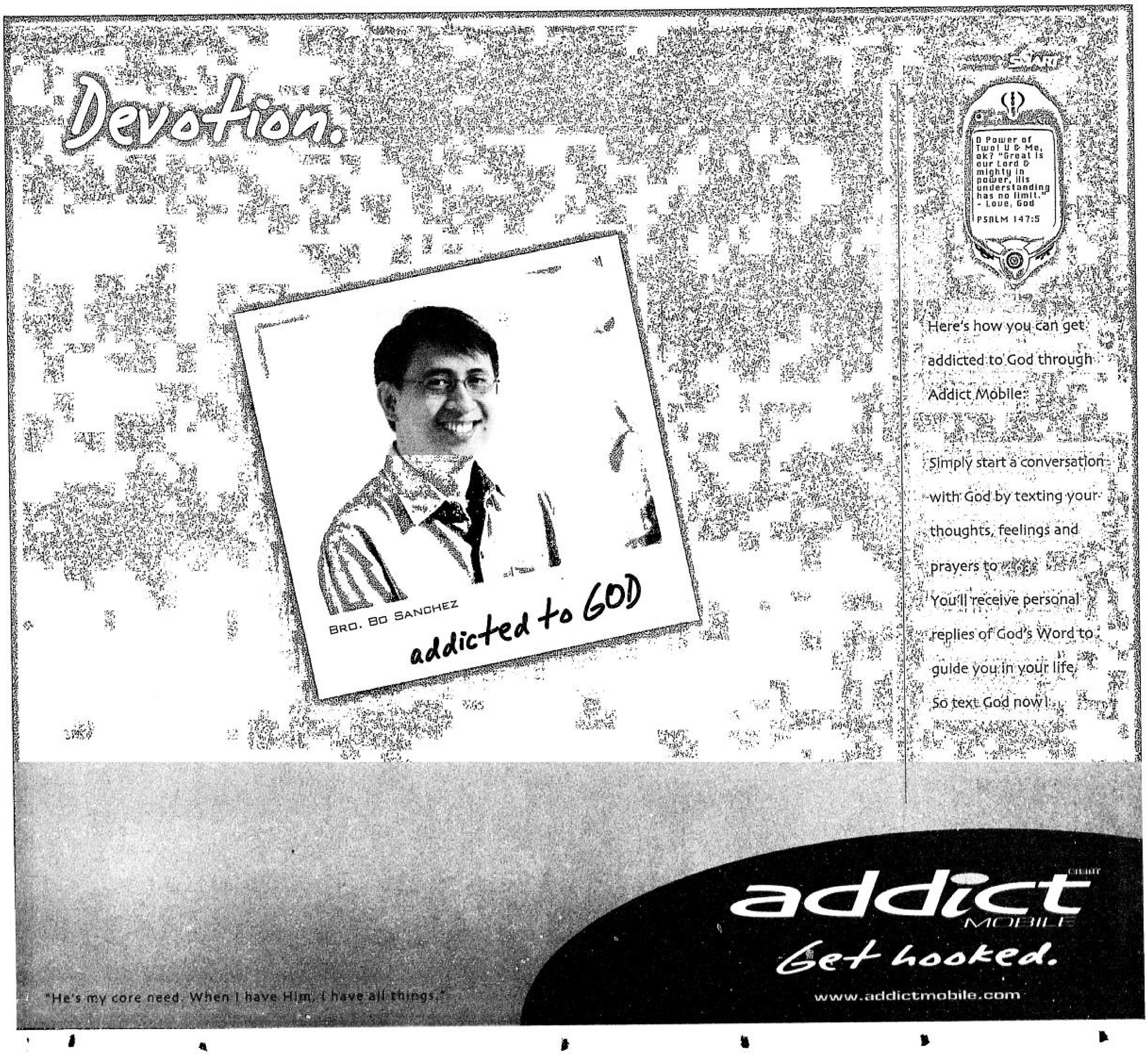
There were waffle stands, lemonade corners and mini-pizza stands, and more.

Giveaways came in the form of giant striped yellow tote bags a la Kate Spade for the girls and Dexter's Lab bags for the boys. Both bags were filled with goodies like Curly Tops, Potato Chips and other stuff that kids will never outgrow.

PARENTING/ E2

No matter what they say about her Swarovskis and diamonds, Gretchen Barretto feels she shines best as doting mom to daughter Dominique

LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER. Gretchen Barretto with daughter Dominique



Devotion.

O Power of Two! U & Me, ok? "Great is our Lord & mighty in power, His understanding has no limit." - Love, God

PSALM 147:5

BRO. BO SANCHEZ

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GROUP POSE. Maureen Soong, Maegan and Mimi Que, Cindy Yang and Ferdie Obando with Gretchen

SISTER BONDING. Marjorie and Claudine Barretto with Luis Alandy

LIEZL Martinez with a baby

Parenting is the greatest performance of her life

24 K. Karla Estrada

HEALTHY, HAPPY SMILE. Nadia Montenegro

From page E1

Hands-on parent

Dad Tonyboy Cojuangco sat very relaxed in one corner, chatting with friend Willy Soong. Gretchen was hands-on as hands-on could be, making sure all the details went the way they were supposed to—everything for Dominique's happiness.

Behind La Greta's public persona—that of a movie star known for her glamorous aura, enchanting beauty and bling-blings—is a woman who wishes to be the best mother she can be.

Not too many people know that Gretchen's life revolves around her family. This writer has joined her for lunch after taebo classes with Vanessa Garcia countless times, and no matter what, Gretchen drops whatever she is doing at the strike of 2 p.m., for that is the time she has to pick Dominique up from school.

And she does this daily 2:15 p.m. routine whether she is healthy or feeling sick, no matter what appointments she has.

And she has gotten some flak for it. There was once this magazine cover photo shoot that had the editors panicking for she left them hanging. For that, she was labeled a "brat" and other names.

"I came on time, they were late," Gretchen said. "They knew my parameters, I explained that to them way before. My family is my priority."

In fact, her only addiction (aside from shopping for clothes and jewelry, which she unrepentantly admits to) is going to the gym. She regularly goes to RCBC Spa to maintain her figure. "The only time she doesn't show up at the gym is when Dominique is sick," said one of her close gym mates. "When her daughter is sick, she is there with her 24/7."

In fact, what people do not know is that when Gretchen goes out, she has to ask her daughter's permission.

Even during show biz awards nights that Gretchen attends, Dominique is there with her, waiting for her either in the car or backstage.

Moreover, it is La Greta who puts Dominique to sleep every night.

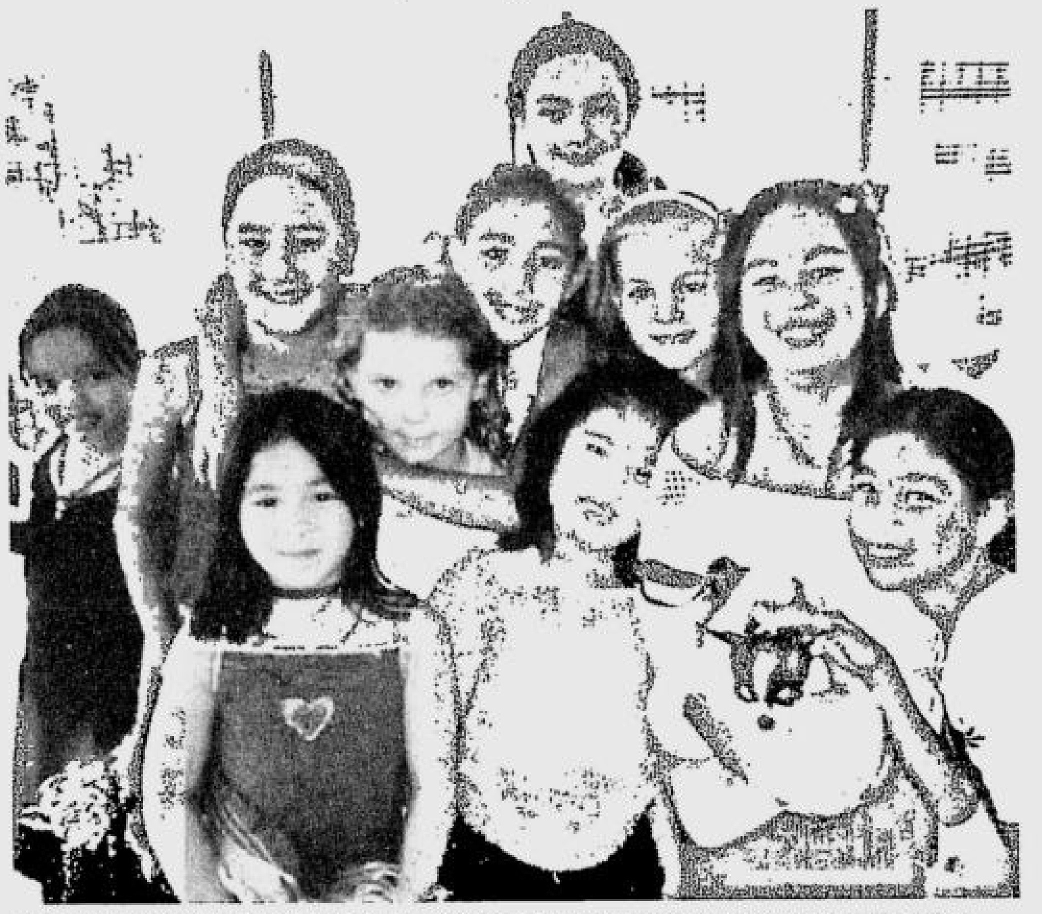
It was a fun party. The kids were all excited. The adults caught up with each other's lives as parents.

Other friends of La Greta from the glitz biz were there, such as Ana Abiera, who busily took pictures, Nadia Montenegro and Liezl Martinez.

Gretchen's sister Marjorie was with soap star Luis Alandy. Their youngest sister Claudine came in late from a taping.

That Tuesday afternoon, no one was a movie star, no one was a magnate, no one was the daughter of some famous people. It was just a simple gathering of people who love one another, like family.

TONY'S TEAM. Net Tiburcio, Robertha Novenario and Al Purganan


GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN. Dominique Cojuangco and her British School buddies

Ad exec marks birthday

PETITE Charmaine Cruz may look delicate, but behind the Dresden doll features and unassuming ways is a smart woman who runs her own advertising agency called Provocateur.

Charmaine graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She is at present completing her Masters in Industrial Organizational Psychology at the same school.

At Provocateur, Charmaine conducts training workshops on organizational development, qualitative and quantitative research.

Charmaine recently marked her birthday with a cocktail reception at Makati Shangri-La Hotel's French restaurant Cheval Blanc. Aside from Citibank's Eric Alberto, Megaworld's Noli Hernandez, Credit Suisse's Jessie Tan and Carolle Ong, Development Bank of the Philippines' Gerry Arellano and Empower Consulting's Roj Cruz, Charmaine's well-wishers included senatorial sons Paco Magsaysay and Mark Villar, sportswriter Bill Velasco, former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, Evangeline Alberto of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, businessman Ernie Liwanag, Alay Lakad president Frank Evaristo and society host Johnny Litton, who offered a toast for the birthday girl.

Diding Robles, wife of Sta. Lucia Realty Corp. top gun Excy Robles, was another recent birthday celebrator. Party setting was the Robles residence in Antipolo. Diding is the president of Royale Homes Marketing, which handles the high-end resort and residential projects of Sta. Lucia like Club Morocco in Subic, Zambales.

The Rockin' Revival Band kept the energy level up with its music. Diding and Excy led the dance floor action, to the delight of their children Michelle, Michael, Jason, Marlon and Joanna, and Sta. Lucia matriarch Doña Dominga Robles Santos.

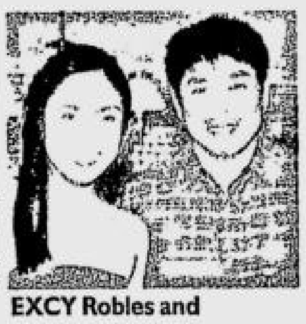
Some of the guests were Diana de la Paz, Ivy Leoncio, Wilma Ignacio, Nini Licaros, Carlos and Ellen Pecson, Chona Maningos and Connie de Silva.

A couple of weeks later, Diding gave Excy a surprise birthday party at the Quezon Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La. The affair, attended by some 600 guests, featured an entertainment program directed by Frannie Zamora. Headliners were Rico J. Puno, Dessa, the Hot Legs Dancers, and Tintin Bersola as emcee.

Donnie Ramirez

MICHAEL Robles with grandma Sta. Lucia matriarch Doña Dominga Robles Santos

DIDING Robles


EXCY Robles and daughter Michelle

PACO Magsaysay, Frank Evaristo, Eric Alberto, Charmaine Cruz, Charm Tacorda and Mark Villar

SINGAPOREAN Ambassador Lim Kheng Hua (third from left), British Council director Gill Westaway, British designers Nick Jickinson and Nick Paterson, and parents of Lesley Mobo, Bonifacio Mobo Jr. and Milagros Mobo

THE DESIGNERS ROW. SM designer Tonichi Nocom (second from left) with Vic Barba, Patrice Ramos Diaz and Shanghai Tang's Cesar Gaupo

Gathering of diplomatic corps members, art buffs and designers

THE "MEASURE for Measure" exhibit, a joint project of the British Council and The Podium, captured the dynamic fusion of UK design and Filipino talent and craftsmanship. The event brought together members of the diplomatic corps, UK and Filipino designers' art enthusiasts, and members of the foreign community.

Held at The Podium's activity center, "Measure for Measure" showcased the world-class houseware and furniture designs of UK's Nick Paterson and Nick Jinkinson, and the fashion designs of Filipino designer Lesley Mobo. The two Nicks form a young industrial design team that works with Filipino craftsmen, while Lesley is presently enrolled at the prestigious Central St. Martins, and making waves in the London fashion scene.

The program was hosted by the British Council's Head of Arts and PR Susan Arcega.

Guests were welcomed by SM officials as well as executives from the Keppel Group of Singapore, The Podium's partners.

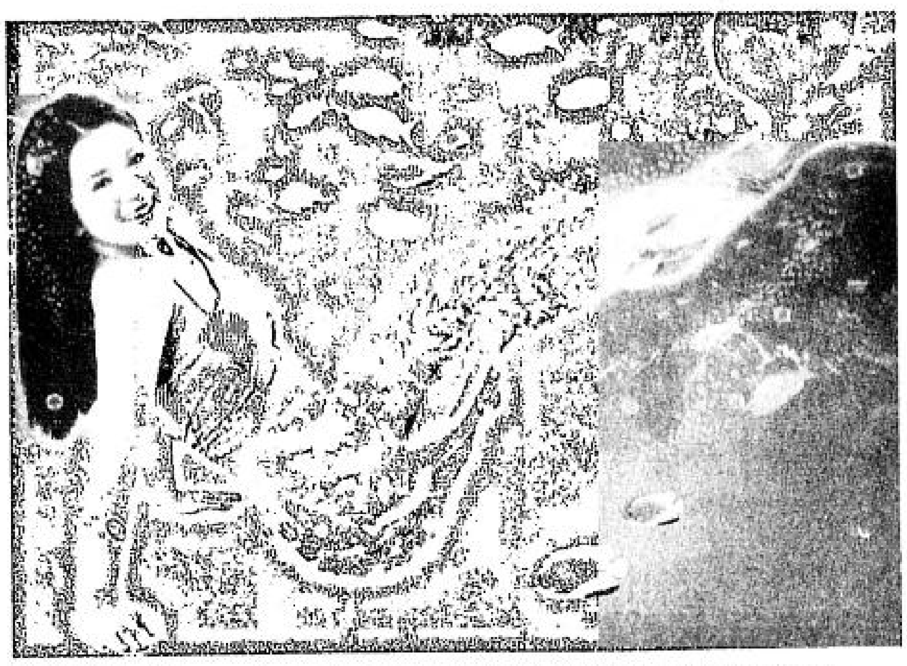
Some of the Philippines' top fashion designers also attended the event. Home accessory manufacturers as well as members of the Citem group also came.

FASHION designer Eric Pineda and friend Arnold Co

IVAR Aseron, Jojie Lloren, Yvonne Quisumbing, Mel Vergel de Dios, James Reyes and Joey Samson of Young Designers Group (YDG)

SM's executive vice president Hans Sy and Keppel's executive VP Lawrence Peh

'Little Mermaid' finds new home at Ayala malls



ANTOINETTE Taus makes a stage comeback as the lead in "Little Mermaid."

"LITTLE Mermaid," the hit musical retelling of the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale, has found a new mermaid and new home just in time for its third staging at Ayala Malls this month.

TV and movie star, Antoinette Taus, who traces her roots in theater, is making her stage comeback in the lead role of Jewel.

As part of Ayala Malls Events for the post-Easter season, and the second musical that Ayala is staging—the first being last Christmas' "He Came Upon a Manger," which was headlined by Jeffrey Quizon and China Cojuangco—"Little Mermaid" is finally reaching out to a bigger audience. Not only is it touring the three Ayala Malls this May—Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu—it is also the first time that performances will be open to the public. Its first two performances were at Meralco Theater.

Employing songs, show-stopper dance routines and elaborate costumes, "Little Mermaid" tells the story of mermaid Jewel who, at 16, is on a mission to enchant a human to give up his soul and live life under the sea. Tables are turned and Jewel finds herself falling in love first with the all-human Prince Christian. Now she's the one who has to give up all that she has to join the man she loves in the surface world. The trouble is, Christian is already in love with another human, Princess Sapphire. In the end, Jewel finds the true meaning of love and discovers a love far greater.

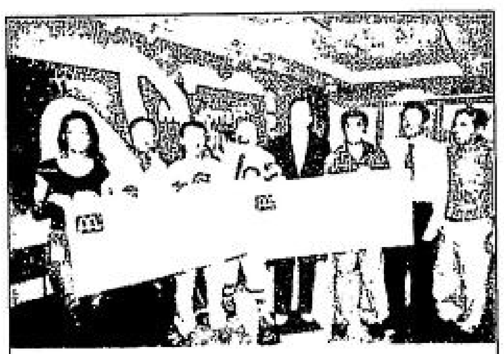
Reprising their roles as Prince Christian and Princess Sapphire are Noel Rayos and Karylle.

Karylle debuted as a performer in the premiere staging of "Little Mermaid" in 2001. The daughter of Zsa Zsa Padilla, Karylle has nonetheless carved a name of her own on TV and recording, appearing weekly in the musical variety "SOP," and winning the 2001 Aliw Awards for Best New Artist and most recently, MTV 2002's Best Female Artist and Best Performance by a New Female Recording Artist at the 15th Awit Awards last year.

With book and lyrics by Luna Griño Inocian and Jaime del Mundo, and music by Lito Villareal, "Little Mermaid" is an original Filipino musical from the theater company Trumpets. The artistic team for the Ayala Malls performances is led by Trumpets pioneer Audie Gemora, who directs the shows.

There are 28 performances. Performances are ongoing until today (4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.) at Ayala Center Makati.

The Alabang Town Center takes its turn on May 9 (11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.), 10 (11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.) and 11 (4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.). Finally, "Little Mermaid" takes Ayala Center Cebu on May 23 (4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.), 24 (11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m.) and 25 (11:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.).



Instant Winning with Game K N B at McDo. John Michael C. Golpe, first customer to claim P100,000.00, with Ronald McDonald, Managing Director Joseph S. Lau, Executive Vice President Kenneth S. Yang, and Chief Finance Officer Bing Pachoco.

Other winners with P10,000.00 each are Adeline B. Raymundo, Nilo Dalanon and Nestor S. Dulce.

Simply visit McDonald's. Every P 50.00 worth of purchase lets you have one game card. Simply scratch off silver film to look if you win instant prizes like cash, free product or a special offer coupon.

A total of over 50 Million of super-thrilling cash prizes, freebies, and discounts to be won in this grand and exciting promo. Period is from April 25 to May 25.

Other cash amounts to be won are P10, 000.00, and P1, 000.00. ADVT.

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Instant cash, freebies and much more.
Buy P50 worth of McDo, get a gamecard then enjoy the surprise. See posters for details.
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Greenbelt	May 1- 18
Smart Tower	May 1- 18
SM North EDSA (& TSI)	May 1- 18
Binondo	May 1- 18
SM Davao	May 1- 18
SM Cebu	May 1- 18
Mango Road Cebu	May 1- 18

MALL BLITZES	DATES
EDSA Shangri-la	May 1 - 11
Rockwell	May 1 - 11
Powerplant	May 1 - 11
Alabang Town Center	May 1 - 11
Robinsons Malate	May 1 - 11
Podium	May 1 - 11
Festival Mall	May 5 - 18

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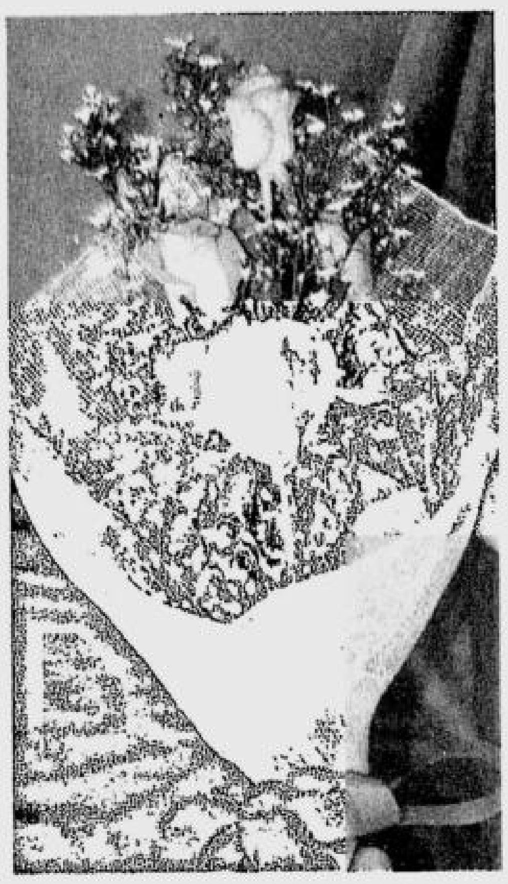
GIFTS FOR MOM

Express your love for Mom through flowers



MOTHER'S Day is one very special day when we honor that wonderful lady who makes our lives comfortable and meaningful in spite of the many problems around us.

Usually, we give a bouquet of roses and a box of chocolates or a cake with a card that tells our message of love. There are some who buy their mothers expensive gifts like jewelry, signature clothes, bags and shoes and a weekend vacation in a resort or luxury hotel.

Almost all moms love flowers and potted plants. You can give several pots in a basket or combine with other gifts, says Anna Ruth Conde of Purificacion Orchids and Ornamental.

The Purificacion Orchids and Ornamental Plants holds a Mother's Day special sale until May 18 at its main store at Manila Seedling Bank complex, Quezon Avenue corner Edsa, QC and all its outlets in SM City North Edsa; SM City Fairview, QC; SM Centerpointin Aurora Boulevard, Manila; SM Manila (behind Manila City Hall); and SM Megamall in Mandaluyong.

There are also satellite outlets of Purificacion Orchids and Ornamentals in SM City North Edsa, SM Centerpoint and SM Megamall. Big discounts will be given on all flowering plants and flower arrangements and bouquets. Call 928-4831 or (0917) 462-4866.

Exquisite florals for a special woman

GIVE mom gifts of exquisite florals from Crabtree and Evelyn, which are carefully selected and beautifully wrapped.

Show your appreciation by giving her Crabtree & Evelyn Freesia items—body lotion, eau de toilette, shower and bath gel, talcum powder or triple milled soap. You can have some well-deserved Lily of the Valley treats for her—delightfully sweet and mildly scented body lotion, eau de toilette, shower and bath gel, talcum powder, triple milled soap, glycerine soap and bath seeds.

Crabtree & Evelyn is also offering a special 30-percent discount on all items on May 15-31.

The Crabtree & Evelyn branches are at the 2/L SM Megamall A, upper ground level of Robinsons Galleria, 2/L Padre Faura Wing of Robinsons Place Manila, and Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati.

LILY of the Valley collection

FREESIA Fantasy line

Tropical blooms

A UNIQUE arrangement of exotic blooms and foliage: horsetail, taratip, foxtail and Ming ferns

SURPRISE Mom with a one-of-a-kind floral arrangement. Ging de los Reyes of The Flower Farm recommends Tropical Blooms for Mom, a floral design of tropical plants and flowers, features horsetail, taratip, foxtail and Ming ferns as some of the unique elements of this set. Foxtail (or meyerii to avid gardening enthusiasts) originally came from Holland but is now grown at The Flower Farm's Tagaytay farm.

The arrangement is a spectacular accent to any home or office and, given proper care, can last up to a month.

Other specially designed products include A Spicy Surprise, which features peppers, paprika and other spice plants creatively arranged in an assortment of greens; and Potted Beauties, a collection of amaryllis, carnations and other summery blooms in hand-painted keepsake pots.

The Flower Farm has branches at Rada Street, Makati (tel. 815-6665), San Juan (722-7122), Alabang (809-4612) and Glorietta 4 (752-7206).

AMARYLLIS with green buttons

Luscious treats

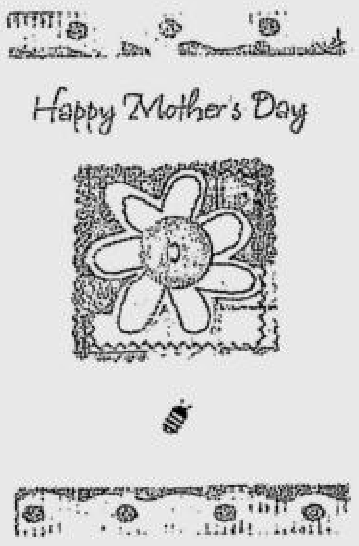
TREAT your Mom like a true goddess on her special day with Lush's scrumptious, handmade bath and body treats, all made with the finest fresh ingredients and essential oils.

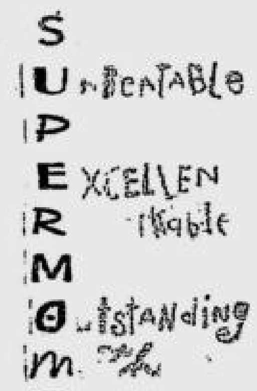
Mum Gift Box (P725). An indulgent gift, overflowing with a selection of Lush goodies for a full day of pampering and relaxation. Inside, you will find a Bohemian soap, with cleansing and toning lemon oil; Figs and Leaves soap, crammed with fig seeds for all-over exfoliation; Butterball bath ballistic containing chunks of cocoa butter to leave skin silky smooth; Summer Blues bath ballistic full of petals to float in the bath and a 100-g B Never Too Busy To Be Beautiful body and hair gel scented with a red clover infusion to calm the mind.

Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Lush boutiques are at Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall and Greenbelt 3.

Write down your feelings for Mother

AVAIL of these two Mother's Day promos from Hallmark cards. For every purchase of two Mother's Day cards, you will get a free Geo Blossom balloon. Promo runs until May 11 at selected National Book Store outlets. As a special treat to all Purefoods Spam lovers, every purchase of two 215 g round cans entitles you to a free Mother's Day card from among four designs pulled out from The racks exclusively for this promo. Submit two Purefoods Spam labels to the Customer Service desks of all National Book Store outlets until May 11 to get a free Hallmark Mother's Day card.





Functional and fashionable

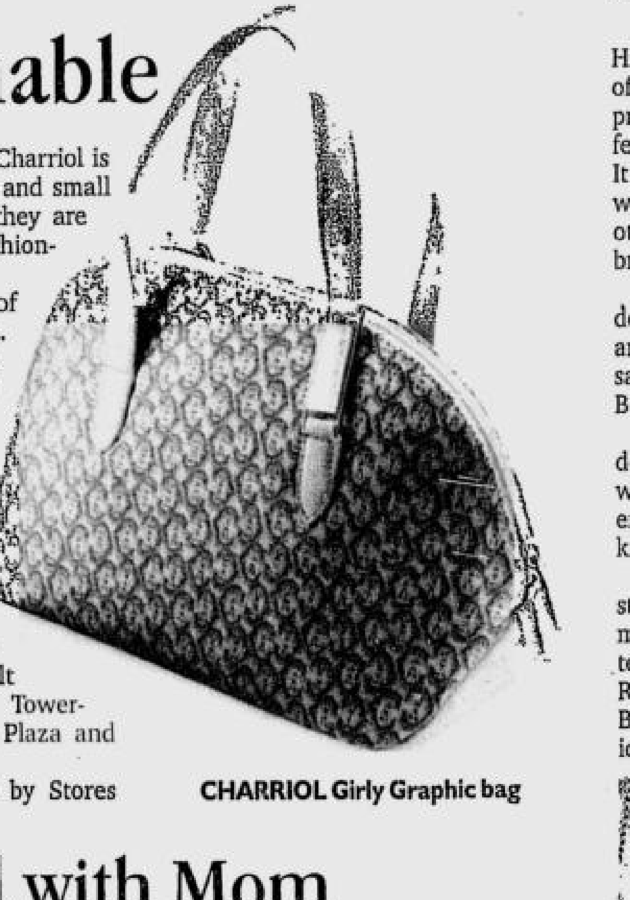
IN THIS season of honoring mothers, Charriol is offering a limited edition line of bags and small accessories that are as luxurious as they are practical, functional as they are fashionable—the Girly Graphic.

It features a beautifully crafted logo of the Charriol motif in lightweight canvas. It is a chic selection of bags and small leather goods in a wide range of designs suitable for different occasions.

The Girly Graphic collection is presented by Charriol in two distinctive colors: cool navy blue and sexy raspberry in canvas with matching leather accents in blue and creamy beige.

The Girls Graphic Collection is now available in Charriol stores located at the Power Plant Mall, Greenbelt Mall, Rustan' s Makati, Rustan's Tower-Shangri-La Plaza, Rustan's Harrison Plaza and Rustan's Ayala Center Cebu.

Charriol is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.



CHARRIOL Girly Graphic bag

Bond with Mom

AT "BOND with Mom," an event that is being co-presented by Moms & Kids magazine, kids are encouraged to bring their moms to this special occasion and treat them to a day of fun rides, games, prizes and lots of surprises. Those who come in look-alike costumes with their moms will receive gifts and will also have the chance to appear in Moms & Kids magazine!

Mothers and children are also invited to join the program by coming up with their own 3-5 minute entertainment numbers. Music or minus-one should be provided by the participants.

Aside from the special Mother's Day program, there are also parlor games and interactive contests with mothers and children as contestants. Call 457-4963 or (0917) 890-8511.

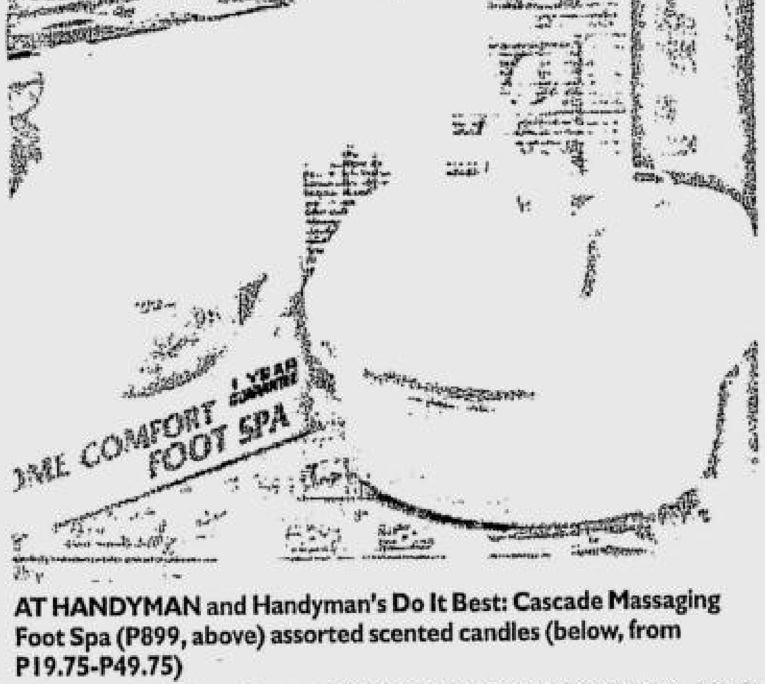
Home décor and garden items for Moms

HANDYMAN and Handyman's Do It Best, two of the country's fastest-growing home improvement centers, carry items that are perfect alternative gifts. With an alliance with Do It Best Corp. of the United States, they have a wide product selection that includes, among others, thousands of Do It Best private label brands.

Great gifts for mom include lawn and garden implements like flower pots and seeds and garden tool sets, which are currently on sale at all Handyman and Handyman's Do It Best stores.

There are also home décor items like chandeliers, table lamps and scented candles as well as kitchen gadgets such as pancake makers, multipurpose kitchen graters and kitchen knives sets.

Handyman and Handyman's Do It Best stores are located at Robinsons malls, Waltermart stores and other leading shopping centers nationwide. Soon to open are branches at Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, Cavite; Lipa, Batangas; Angeles, and in Waltermart Plaridel, Bulacan.



AT HANDYMAN and Handyman's Do It Best: Cascade Massaging Foot Spa (P899, above) assorted scented candles (below, from P19.75-P49.75)

TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

Between the mountain and the sky

Text and photos by Eduardo M. Enriquez
Contributor

DON'T touch the rock," Perin advises.

Too late. I raise my hand and look at my fingertips. They are coated with thick, dark muck. Eurgh. (Boys and girls, can you say "bat guano"?)

It's my first visit to Sagada and I and my companions are exploring Sumaging Cave. This is the final item on our itinerary—a hectic tour (three days and two nights) of Ifugao and Mountain Province.

Day One. Our bus breaks down, ending a trip of more than 10 hours from Manila that found us passing through Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya. We take a jeepney for the final stretch to Banaue.

Upon arrival in Banaue's market area, I quickly notice how the red stains on the road match the color of the lips and teeth of many among the locals. Each of the small cellophane bags in their hands contains a green palm nut, a leaf, and a smaller bag filled with lime. (Among the spots we'd be visiting, I'd find that the custom of chewing betel nut would only be popular here.)

After finding an inexpensive place to park our bags and spend the night, we're off to the rice terraces of Hapao, a well-known woodcarving village.

Despite an exhausting yet fun trek through beautiful terraces (part of the world-famous Banaue Rice Terraces, one of the several Unesco World Heritage Sites in the Philippines), we discover that none of the woodcarvers are home. We do stumble across a *bagol*, though.

Call it an Ifugao post-birth party. Traditionally held by a family after the birth of a child, this one gives us the opportunity to try two local delicacies: *bubud* and *bayah*. What exactly are they? Sprinkle some yeast on rice and give it several days to ferment. As the yeast breaks the rice down, save the liquid that drips below. That's *bayah*. The rice itself *(bubud)* tastes something like, well, try mixing *tuba* and *biko* and you'll have an idea. Let's just say it's an acquired taste.

Our hosts at the household in Sitio Boy-Angan has something else to show us. At one corner of the property stands a structure that bears a resemblance to a very distinct part of the male human body. We lowlanders don't see phallic symbols every day, but apparently this is a special day. Around three feet high, the piece of stone is surrounded by gamboling kids, who, from the looks of it, can't care less what the thing represents.

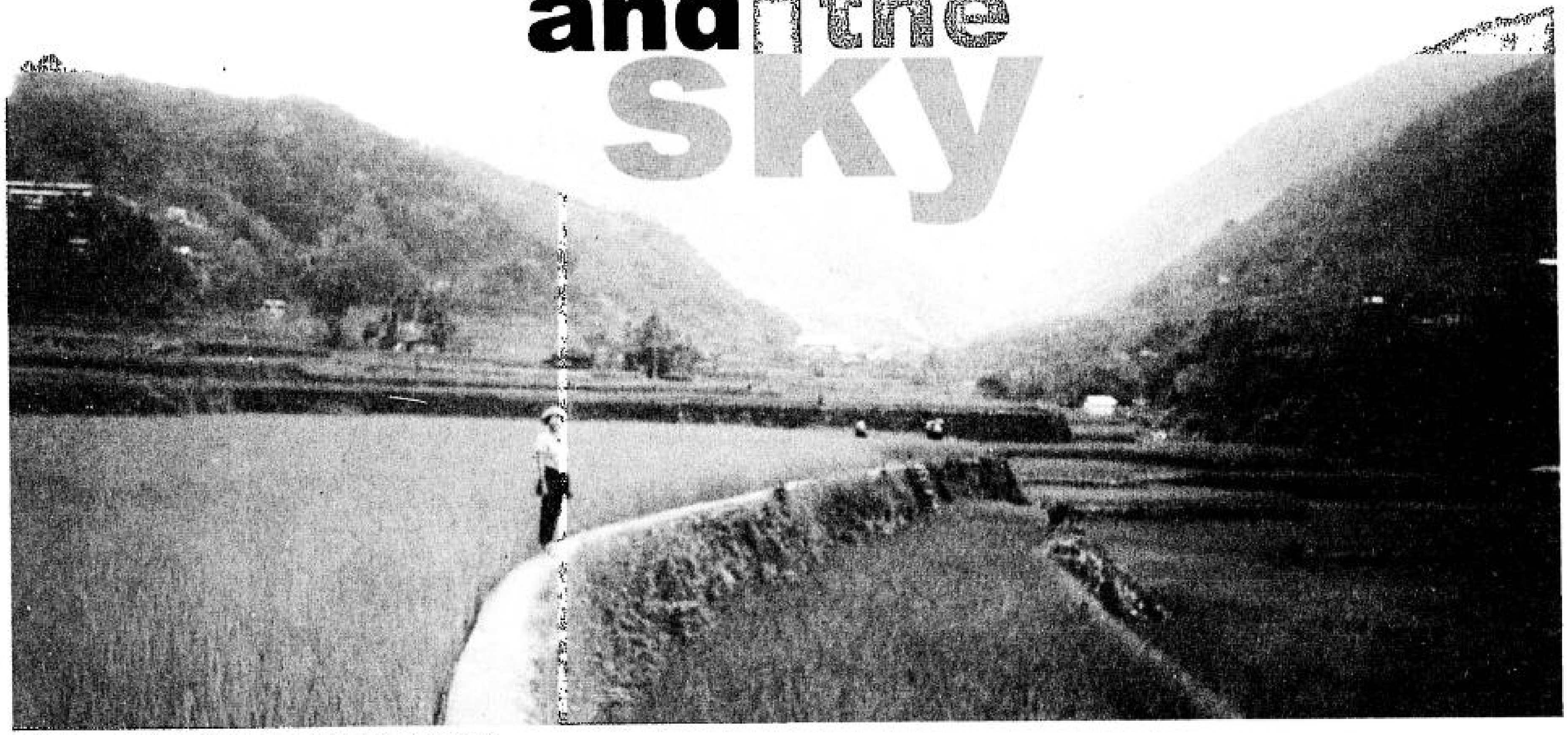
After Hapao we head to the town of Hingyon, where we meet a weaver named Felisa.

We get a chance to admire some of her blankets, and then we are treated to a demonstration of local dyeing techniques.

As dusk begins to fall, an open-air fire is started and water is boiled in a metal pot. Leaves, rhizomes and minerals find their way into the pot, as well as pieces of white string that are later pulled out brown, yellow or black.

It is dark by the time the textile arts demo ends, but our peek into Ifugao life on this day is not quite over. With flashlights illuminating our footsteps, Felisa leads us down what felt like several hundred steps along a mountain slope, where a wedding-eve feast is taking place. We politely pass on the flesh of a carabao and six pigs and accepted a wonderful, colorful meal of the region's vegetable crop, blanched and lightly salted. With full bellies and fresh memories of graceful Ifugao dancing, we slip away, thighs screaming later as we ascend the long, dark mountain staircase.

Day Two. Although soreness marks muscles long unused in Manila, we are refreshed by a cool night's sleep. (No fan or air-conditioning!) We are to move on to Bontoc and Sagada. But before leaving Banaue, we visit a house of note in Gohang—one whose singularity is marked by both fame and tragedy. In many Ifugao circles, when a family member dies the body is put to rest far from human dwellings. The house in Gohang clearly opposes this custom. Not only does a burial house stand beside the traditional family home, it also sports glass panels on two sides, making it possible for fee-paying callers to view the two mummies within.



AT THE concrete-reinforced Hungduan Rice Terraces

HOUSE in Gohang, Banaue (animal skulls decorating outer walls indicate household's wealth)

Visitors to the place some years back may recall how, when the place was a renowned tourist attraction, corporate sponsorship from a well-known tycoon had been prominently advertised here through a large billboard and a brass plaque screwed onto the burial house.

During our visit, we find no billboard, plaque or glass panels. All evidence of past opportunism has been been wiped out. The businessman has fled, along with his tacky paraphernalia. All that remains is a sad story.

One can only guess the unpopularity of the Ifugao man's decision to move the bodies of his parents from their mountain refuge to the side of his house. And fitting their mausoleum with glass sides and demanding a fee so that visitors can view their corpses? Well, let's just say that when death felled a close family member, many attributed it to otherworldly forces at work.

When we visit the house, we are not able to view the famous mummies, their once excellently preserved bodies now ruined by exposure to sunlight magnified through glass. The man, once so garrulous and insistent that each visitor pay a P20-fee, barely seems to notice our presence as he sits silently beneath his home. Our guide hands him a bill before we depart. He looks at it and comes to life, saying: "Thank you very much for this twenty pesos."

The rest of our travels proceed on a markedly lighter mood. We hire a jeepney to take us to Mountain Province.

On the way, we make the customary stop at Viewpoint, where numerous stalls featuring Ifugao handicrafts for sale are clustered around the famous front-row view of the Banaue Rice Terraces.

Fine dust from the unpaved mountain pass covers everything—our bags, the seats, our clothes—on our way to Bontoc. Our nose hairs become blond. "Good thing it isn't raining," I say. "Any drop falling on us would turn to mud."

As the vehicle bumps along, our guide recognizes a familiar face by the side of the road. Lubfid is a weaver, and she walked a far distance on the way to her vegetable patch. But our guide convinces her to abort her plan. (Apparently, the old weaver can be difficult to track down.)

So we go to her home in Samoki Village, where she demonstrates how a traditional Bontoc loom is used. Then she brings out some of her brightly colored creations: a *pinagpagan* blanket, a *ginaspala* (a kind of belt) and a *pinakawaan* (skirt).

After thanking Lubfid for accommodating us, we continue our journey to Bontoc. There, we have lunch at the café right beside the marketplace (during our meal various members of our party get up from the table and return with more *pasalubong*—amazingly cheap, fresh vegetables).

Our guide, although time-conscious, did not want us to miss out on the sights, so she let us rush through the excellent Bontoc Museum. It was P40 each for a total of 10 minutes. A heavy downpour meets us as we exit. Me and my big mouth.

The nice thing about Sagada is that, in a day, you can visit all of its major sights on foot. At the *munisipyo*, we pay a P10 environmental/tourist fee for the next day's visit to Sumaging Cave. We then check out the beautiful stained-glass rose window of the elegant Episcopalian church. (The proficiency in English of Sagada's people, the Kankanai, owes much to the fact that the town was a Protestant settlement for many years.)

If you're afraid of heights or the deceased, you might miss two of Sagada's significant spots. To get to Echo Valley (known to locals as The Valley of the Dead) you have to walk through the local cemetery. Among tree ferns, lilies and pines festooned with animal skulls, we spot the graves of a few of Sagada's departed personalities. The Masferres, Ka Bruno, William Henry Scott and the mysterious Donni Cadiogan sleep on, their days of making history in this secluded mountain town over. Well, maybe.

TRIO (and chicken) on mountain road

Day Three. We planned to get up early so that we'd be the first party to visit Sumaging Cave. That way, we figured, the place wouldn't be so muddied up when we get there.

But things don't go according to plan. We get up some time after our alarms went off, dawdle through breakfast, and then return to our rooms to address toilet issues. When we finally meet up with Perin, our guide, he tells us to change from pants and shoes into shorts and slippers. And bring just one bag, he says, for our camera and refreshments.

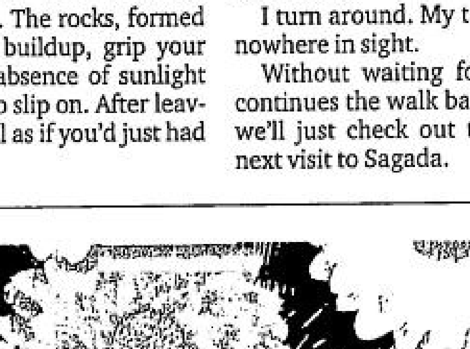
We follow his instructions to the letter and return almost 30 minutes later.

In what we would later recognize as typical Kankanai bluntness, Perin comments: "*Ang tagal nyo, a* (You certainly took your time)."

During the half-hour hike, Perin stops at a certain spot by the trail and points to what looks like a boarded-up cavity on the side of the mountain. We can check out Sagada's famous hanging coffins on the way back.

Sumaging's mouth indicates the structure's cathedral-worthy massiveness. Manmade steps make the initial descent easy enough. Before the daylight and steps completely run out, Perin lights his kerosene lantern.

The distinct smell and sound of hundreds of roosting bats is hard to miss on one's way down, Sumaging. But after passing under them (and wiping off one's hands) near the mouth of the cave, the rest of the descent is completely bat-free.



MIKE MUÑOZ

ON THE descent to Sumaging Cave

At some point, you'll be asked to remove your footwear to "feel" the cave. You'll be glad you did. The rocks, formed by eons of sediment buildup, grip your feet excellently. The absence of sunlight also means no algae to slip on. After leaving the cave, you'll feel as if you'd just had a natural foot scrub.

The guides of Sagada have names for all of the distinct rock formations of Sumaging. There's a pigpen, an elephant, a queen, a turtle, a king, a curtain and a chocolate cake, among others. I found out later that Perin hadn't shown us one highlight that I would have loved to see: fossilized seashells embedded in the cave walls. I recalled the limestone structures that I spotted in Echo Valley, the ones that reminded me of the islets of Coron, and it blew me away to realize that Sagada, high as it is, was once under the sea.

The other attractions of Sumaging are a narrow passageway that requires some contortions to get through (obese people should not attempt this one) and the swimming opportunities offered by the many water-filled pools. We get a kick out of seeing our breath coming out in steamy clouds. It is also nice to note that our physical exertions are keeping us from shivering.

Our progress out of the cave is blocked temporarily by the descent of several parties and their guides. Well, well. Despite our tardiness, we still managed to make it as Sumaging's first visitors of the day.

On the walk back, I keep in step with Perin as my exhausted buddies lag behind. I ask him about Sagada culture and he asks about me and my companions. Our conversation is interrupted when we approach the path leading to the hanging coffins. He asks if we'd like to see them.

I turn around. My tarrying friends are nowhere in sight.

Without waiting for my reply, Perin continues the walk back to town. I guess we'll just check out the coffins on our next visit to Sagada.

PAHIYAS ATBP.

It's that time of the year when three quaint towns in Quezon honor their patron saint, San Isidro de Labrador, in unique ways. On May 15, Inscribe Tours will take merrymakers to experience the "Pahiyas" in Lucban (think *kiping*-bedecked houses), the "Mayohan" in Tayabas (where a seafood buffet awaits), and the "Agawan" in Sariaya (expect revelry in the streets). Side trips include visits to stores selling native crafts, the grand St. Michael the Archangel Basilica, and ancestral houses. For inquiries and reservations, call 575-8370, 840-5912 or 0919-8184697.

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Lifestyle goes to Aklan

Aklan's claim to fame may be Boracay's white-sand long beach and the Ati-Atihan festival, but it is also a supplier of cutflowers to neighboring islands and home to crafters who produce world-class handwoven 'piña' cloth, raffia and abaca gift items and house ware. 'Our products are above par,' says Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores with justifiable pride

DIABETES.

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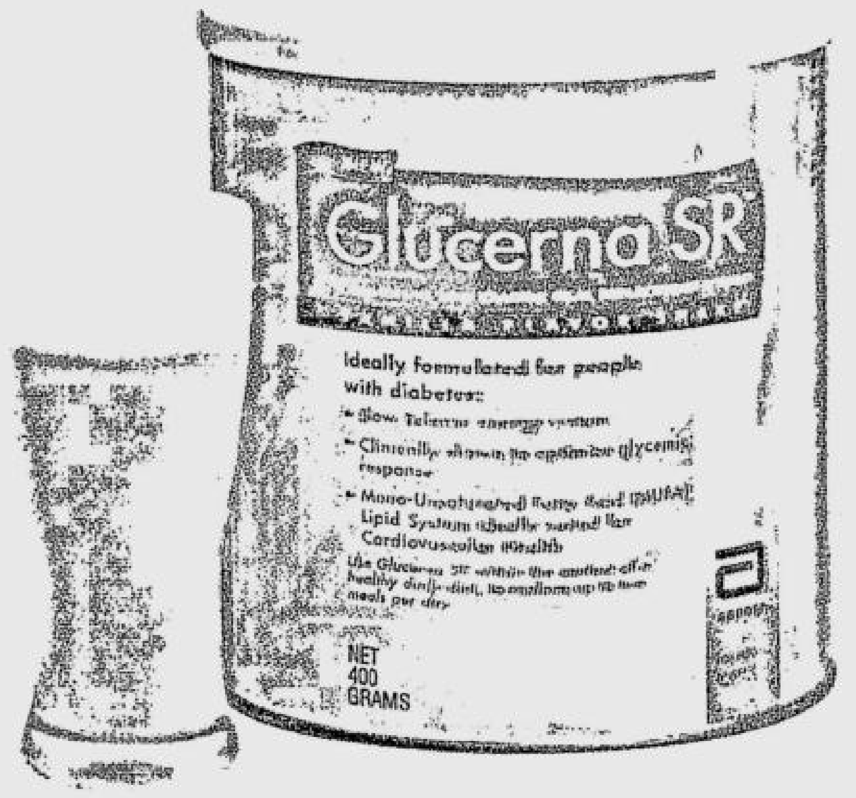
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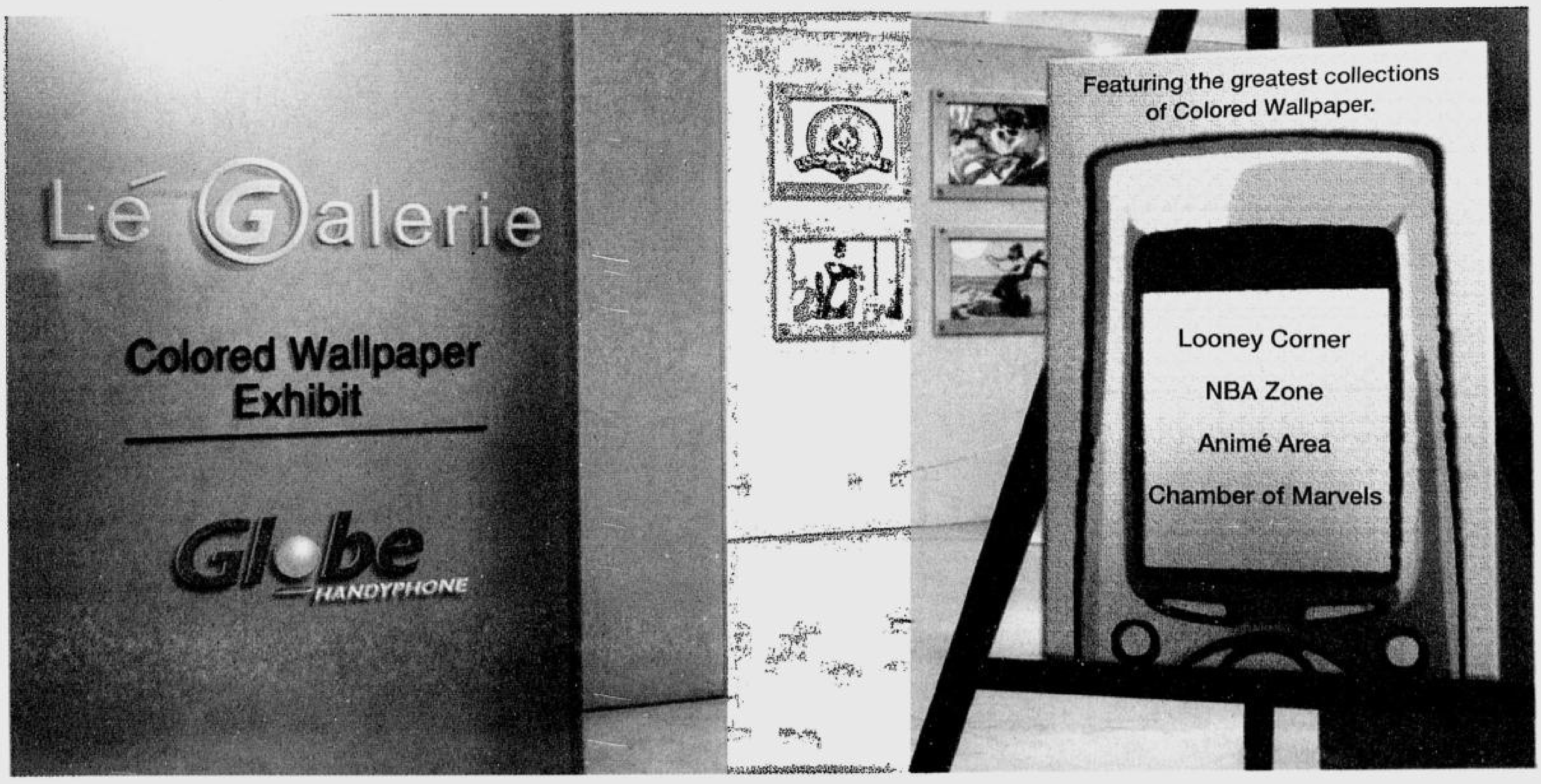
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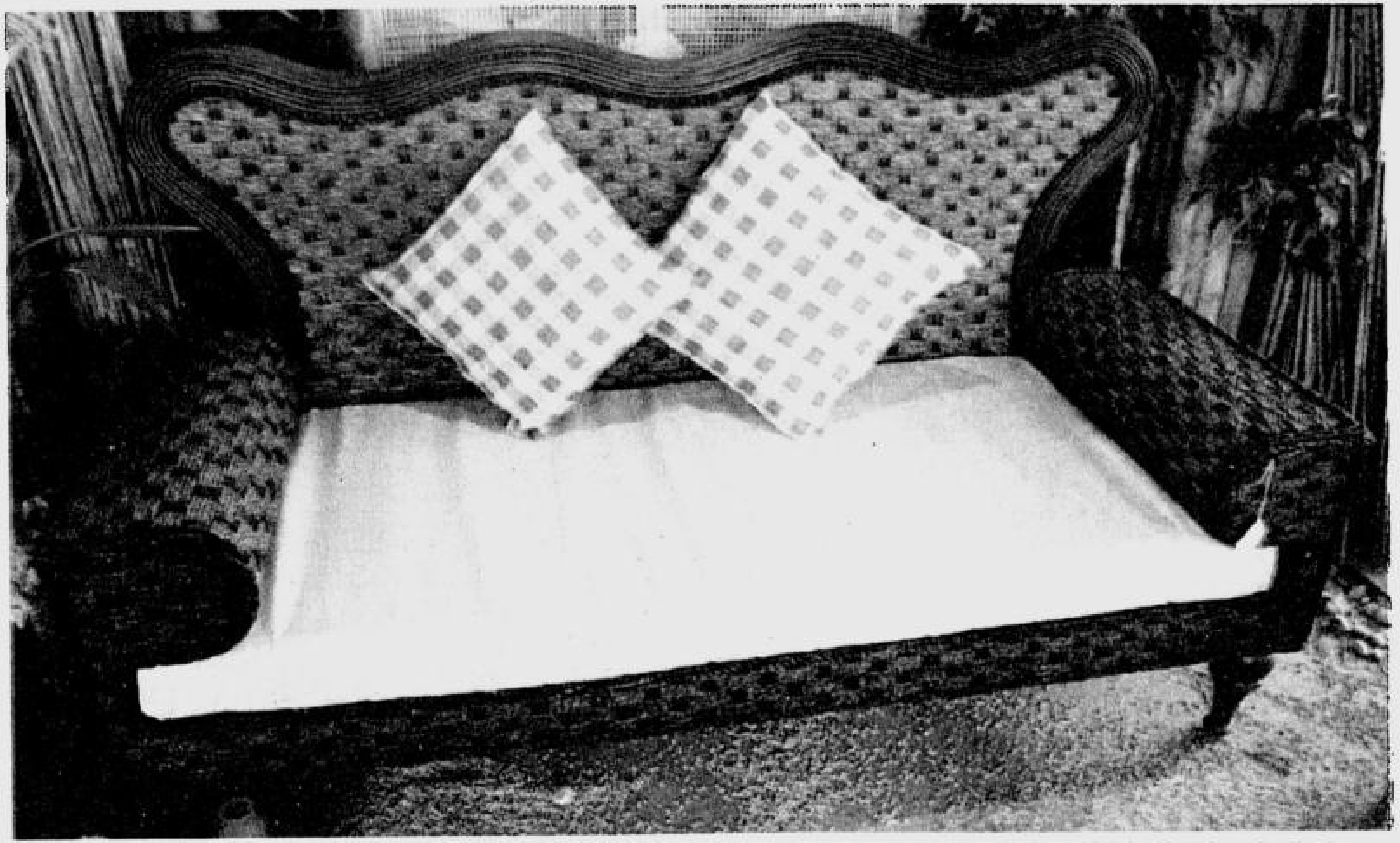
The province is home to a burgeoning native handicrafts industry whose products have become the rage in the West



SOFA made of indigenous materials such as seagrass, lampacanay, abaca bark and agzam with abaca cloth cushion by Lima Interior Design.

Aklan's bewitching crafts

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Mike Alquinto

OTHER than the world-famous Boracay beach and Kalibo's Ati-Atihan festival, Aklan is renowned for its native handicrafts.

The traditional art of *nito* weaving continues to flourish in Aklan and has been a source of livelihood to many of its people. *Nito* is a wild tropical plant that abounds in the province. The rod-like vine is used in making functional home items such as placemats, serving trays, napkin ring, decorative jars, baskets, side table and picture frames.

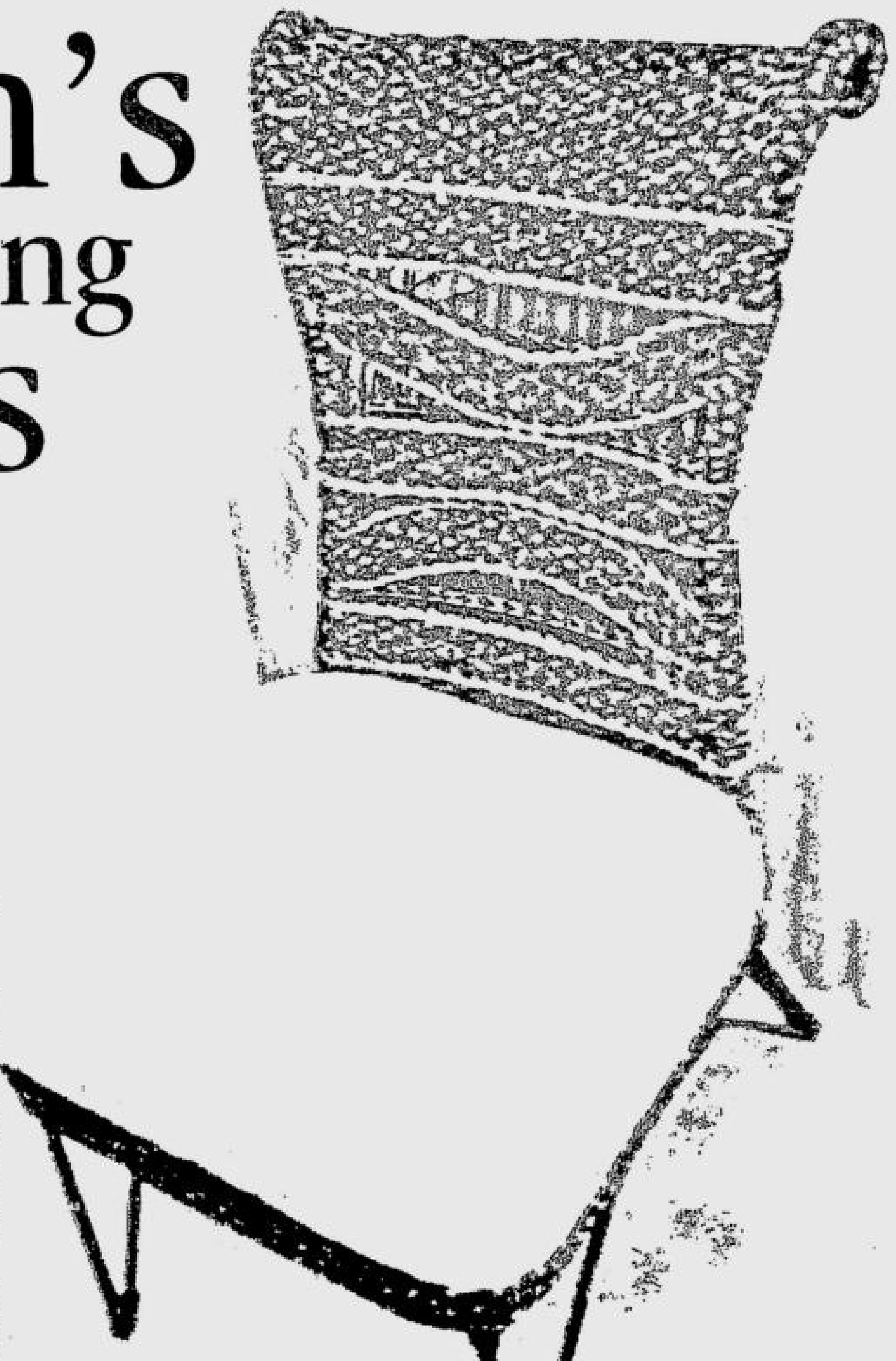
Keeping the tradition of *nito*-weaving alive is the Dela Cruz family of New Buswang, Kalibo.

The Dela Cruz House of Piña and Nito (Aklan tel. 036-2623267; Manila tel. 861-7602) is a family enterprise started by Susima Marte Dela Cruz in 1986. It has prospered since then as a producer and trader of *piña* cloth, making a name for itself in Aklan as the house of quality hand-woven *piña* fabrics.

Nito basketry was a diversification move in 1993. "It was through the Department of Trade and Industry in Aklan that *nito*-making was introduced to us," said Ma. Rhodora Dela Cruz-Sulangi. "The project was highly feasible and DTI supported us in skills training and marketing our products."

Nito weaving has over a thousand community-based weavers spread out in different municipalities in Aklan. Weaving is done solely by hand. Aklanons craftsmanship is

AKLAN'S/ F3



EXOTIC chair made of raffia, agzam and seagrass with abaca cloth cushion by Lima Interior Design.

DIABETES:
Life Changes for the Better

Dealing with Diabetes
When you were told, after a fasting glucose test, that you have diabetes, did a gateway in your mind open up, releasing a powerful current of tangled thoughts?

Bringing you back to the reality of the diagnosis, was your doctor taking you through the Next Steps. You may remember asking yourself "What now?" as if those "Next Steps" were not the answers.

Stages of Dealing
Information as jolting and life changing as being diagnosed with diabetes involves stages of dealing with change. According to Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross*, a psychiatrist, initially there's Denial, then Anger, Bargaining, Depression and finally Acceptance.

DENIAL Denial at the onset is normal. It only becomes a problem when you stay in this phase too long, delaying you from learning more about your condition and the diabetes management and self-care that it requires.

ANGER You are angry at the whole world and blame everyone for your diabetes. To you, diabetes is an enemy. You are angry because you foresee how diabetes will change your life. Anger, in fact, is a defense against the fears and threats of diabetes and its complications. Anger stands in for all your anxieties.

BARGAINING Change has to start somewhere and it is usually here. You strike a deal with yourself. Pass up on dessert, start brisk-walking or give up chocolates. All seem a good enough deal to start with. But you know there's more to diabetes than these.

DEPRESSION Controlling one's blood glucose level and keeping it close to normal is toughest. Strict diet, mandatory exercises, regular check-ups and tests-tedious, making you feel hopeless. Getting stuck in this stage can also sabotage your management of your diabetes. Depression tempts you to give up all the "musts".

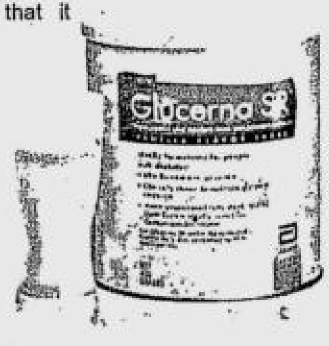
ACCEPTANCE You could simply wake up to a good morning and realize that there is life after diabetes. You are thinking more clearly. You are more comfortable facing the changes brought about by diabetes and you are now ready to look at the brightest side of life. You begin your "To Do" list.

Where do you go from here?
There may still be cloudy days ahead but you know it is just a stage and you can always look forward to better days.

One practical solution to smile about is Glucerna SR! Glucerna SR is a convenient low-calorie meal or snack replacement for diabetics complete with all the essential vitamins and minerals. SR stands for slow release carbohydrate that results in a lower blood glucose level. The fat formulation is high in Mono-unsaturated Fatty Acids that help keep lipid levels in check and provide other benefits for cardiac health. It is also lactose-free and gluten-free with soluble fiber content is healthy for the gut. Glucerna SR is available in delicious buttery caramel vanilla flavor.

Needless to say, Acceptance opens you up to new interests and discoveries! Look around . . . you may even discover a new you!

*Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, M D is a psychiatrist and the author of the groundbreaking On Death and Dying. According to her there are five stages that a dying person goes through when they are told that they have a terminal illness. This model has been used by other authors and applied to many other situations where someone suffers a loss or change in social identity. She has earned a place as the best-loved and most-respected authority on the subject.



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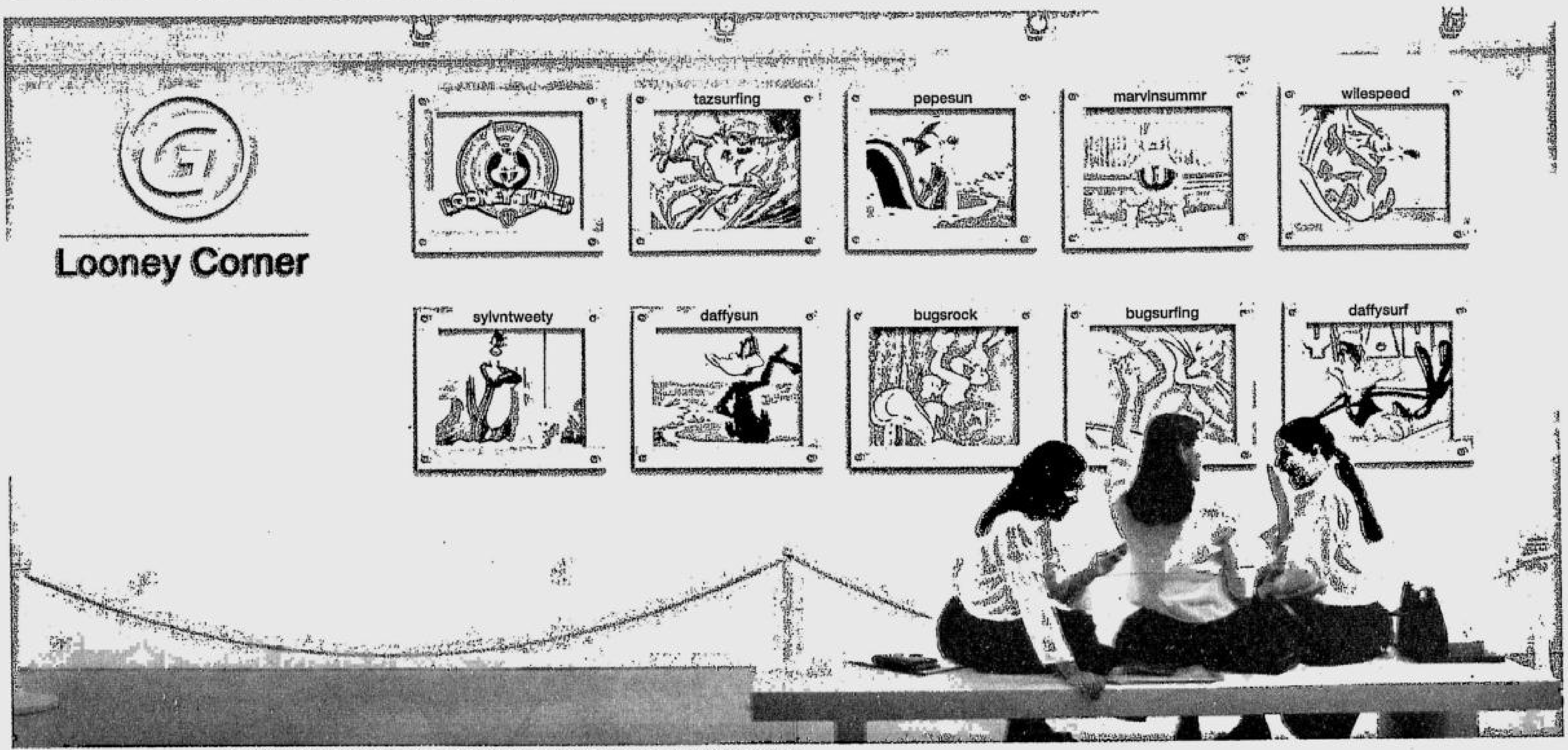

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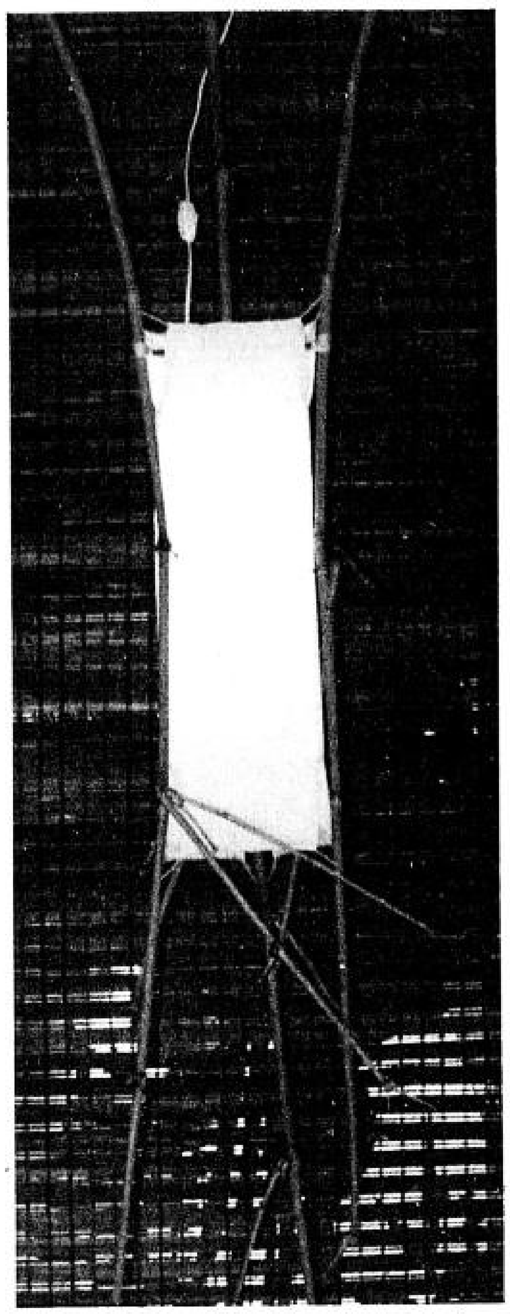
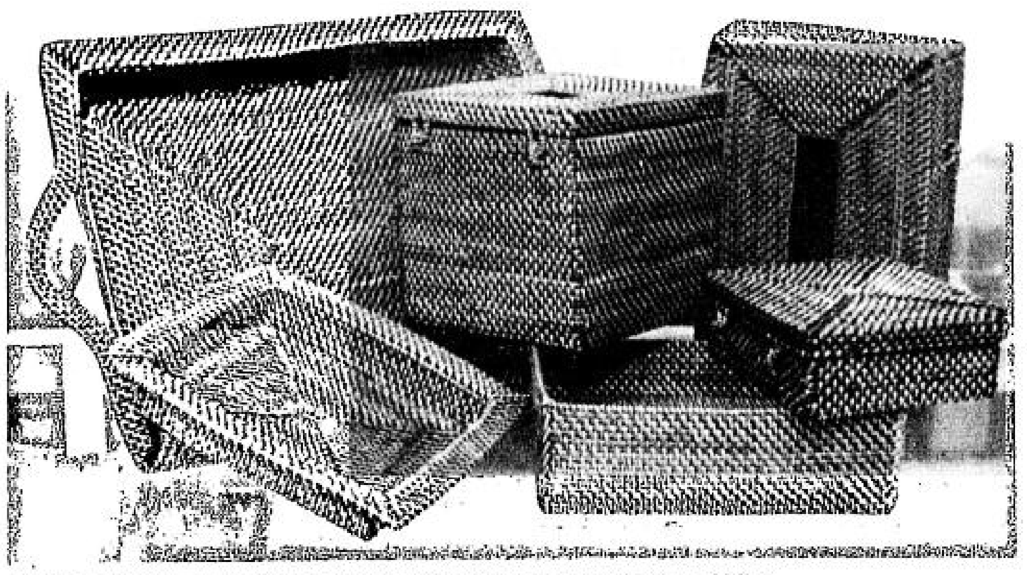


RAFFIA lampshade is designed for art and style by Vine & Fiber.



INTRICATELY woven *nito* baskets by Dela Cruz House of Piña and Nito.

Aklan's bewitching crafts

From page F2

evident in the clean, smooth finish of every item. There are no rough edges, and you cannot even spot the beginning and the end of each weave.

To keep up with the times and adhere to the environment-safety measures, the family recently acquired a spray booth for the finishing process through the Department of Science and Technology and the Forest Products Research and Development Institute. The spray booth is meant to control fumes caused by the use of lacquer-spray during finishing.

"People are now aware of *nito* gathering as a source of income," said Sulangi. Some families in the rural areas have started *nito* propagation in response to the need of increased volume of raw materials."

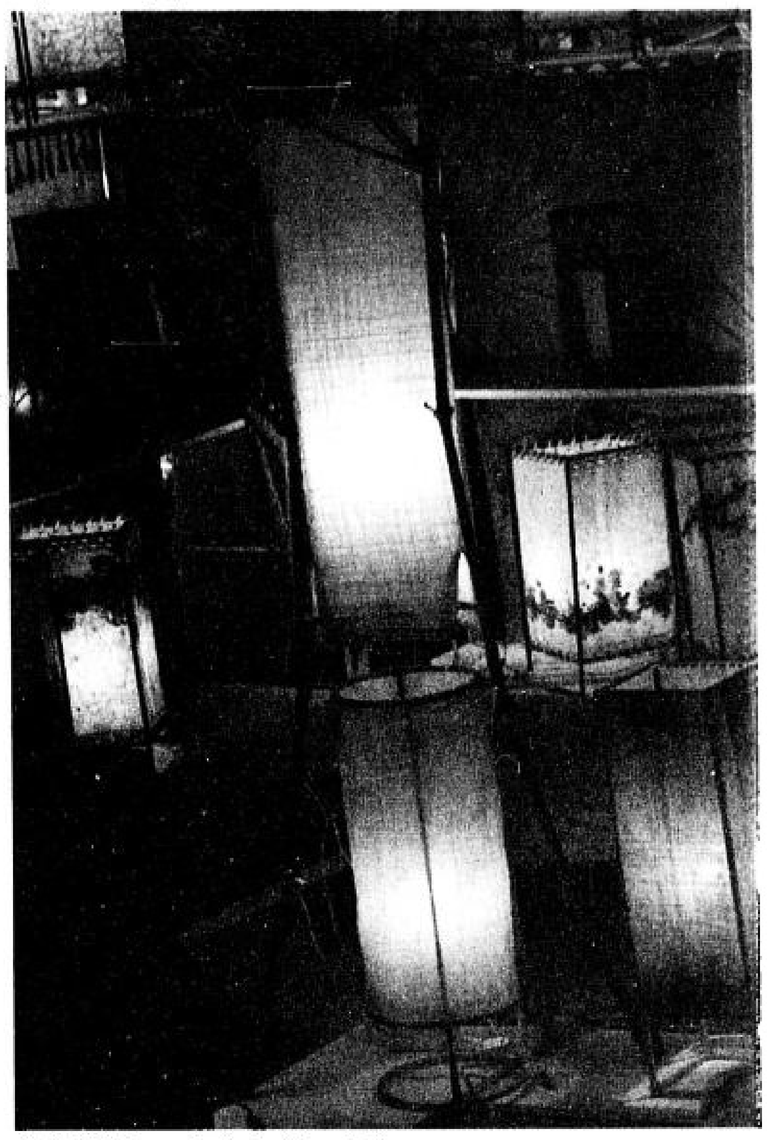
Dela Cruz has focused the product line to cover mostly kitchen and dining accessories. "These we either sell to shops in Manila or export to the United States," Sulangi said. The family has been supplying a high-end home store in the US for the past four years.

Abaca and raffia

Aklan's fine abaca and quality raffia have also entered the world market as well. The fine abaca fibers are patiently selected to make traditional and contemporary home accessories.

Raffia fibers from *buri* palm are made into functional items also for home and décor. Ak-

AKLAN'S/ F4



STYLISH lampshades by Vine & Fiber.

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WHY SUPPLEMENTATION WITH VITAMIN C COMBINED WITH B COMPLEX IS LIKELY TO BE BETTER THAN VITAMIN C ALONE IN BOOSTING THE BODY'S IMMUNE MECHANISMS AGAINST SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS) AND OTHER VIRAL INFECTIONS

M.P. MACAPINLAC, M.D.,Ph.D.

Nutritional status has long been known to influence the susceptibility to and severity of viral infections (1). There is current concern to contain and prevent a new viral infection – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) which can be fatal, from spreading in epidemic proportions in many countries. SARS has been shown to be due to infection with a corona virus (2), an RNA virus related to the common cold.

In the absence of specific and effective drugs, the protection and survival against viral infections, including SARS, depends on the adequacy of the body's innate immune defense mechanisms. Macrophages and different kinds of white blood cells with different functions are involved. They secrete many protective molecules and contribute in various ways to these defense mechanisms. Many micronutrients, particularly the vitamins, have been shown to be essential in maintaining or increasing the activity of these cells.

Vitamin C has long been known to inactivate or inhibit multiplication of a number of viruses growing in cultured cells that have been experimentally infected. These include polio, rabies, herpes simplex (3) and the AIDS (HIV-1) virus (4). As a consequence of these reports, clinical trials using large doses of vitamin C have been tried in the treatment of these viral diseases. Recently, vitamin C supplementation (600 mg daily) has been shown to decrease the incidence of the common cold following heavy physical exercise (4a). In humans, Vitamin C has been shown to stimulate macrophage functions, increase activity of natural killer (NK) cells, enhance phagocytosis and decrease superoxide production when given as dietary supplements (5).

It is now established that some B complex vitamis are also needed to maintain the body's immune competence. These are vitamin B6, folic acid, vitamin B12, and riboflavin (6,7). Many of the B vitamins are also important in the release of energy, a lack of which also impairs immune function. Increased intakes of some of these vitamins above recommended daily allowances (RDA) can enhance some aspects of immune function (7). Consuming vitamin B6 higher than RDA has been shown to improve lymphocyte proliferation in young women (8). In animals, vitamin B6 deficiency leads to lymphoid atrophy, impaired thymus function and decreased antibody production (3). Folate deficiency also leads to lymphoid atrophy, reduced T-cell numbers and decreased lymphocyte proliferation (3). In animals, vitamin B12 deficiency reduces immunoglobin and cytokine production (9). In humans, the deficiency reduces phagocytosis and bacterial killing by neutrophils (3) which is reversed by supplementation (5).

Vitamin deficiencies, are common in many developing countries and because they cause impaired immunity, these deficiencies often co-exist with infectious disease. Infection causes further nutrient deficiencies resulting in a vicious cycle. Because multiple rather than single deficiencies often occur, the prudent strategy for protection should be supplementation with the different vitamins known to have significant effects. Furthermore, a synergistic or complimentary effect can be expected with multiple supplementation because the different vitamins exert their beneficial effects by different mechanisms involved in the immune defense system.

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Aklan's bewitching crafts

From page F3

lan Gov. Florencio Miraflores said the abundance of raw fiber in Aklan, enhanced by the creativity and industry of its people, have resulted in world-class products.

"People are not so aware that our abaca and raffia products are already going places and we can be above par with other producers of abaca and raffia," the governor said.

Miraflores recently staged the annual Aklan Fiber Festival, where a wide variety of home products and personal accessories made from abaca and raffia fibers were showcased. The show focused on home lifestyle and the utilization of anything woven—from ladies' handbags and other fashion accessories to baskets, cushions, mats, rugs, serving trays, wall hangings and lighting fixtures.

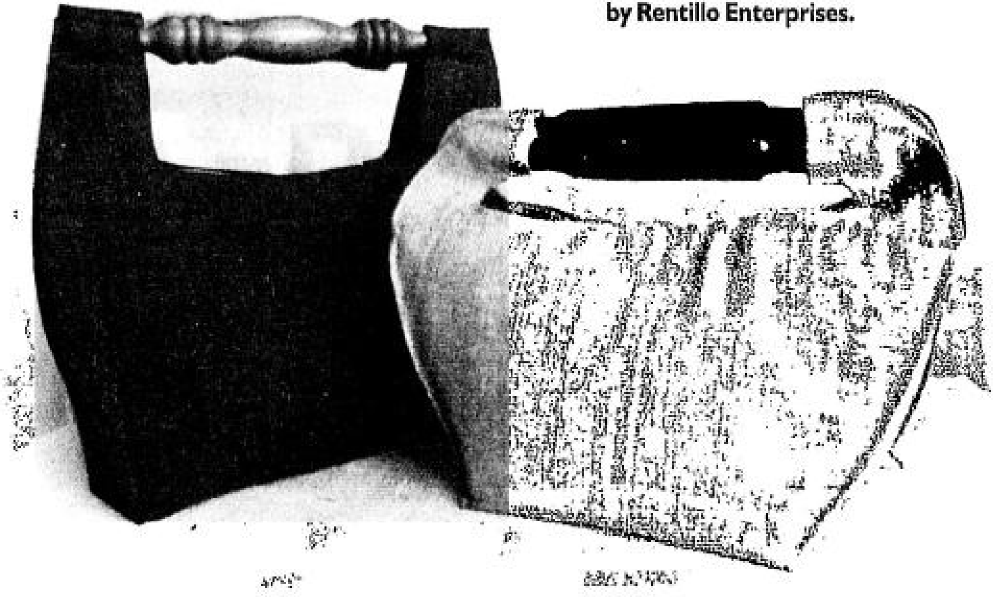
Amelia Rentillo of Rentillo Enterprises (tel. 036-2675845, 0916-8226528), maker of raffia handicrafts in Banga town, featured attractive and colorful ladies' handbags made of raffia fiber. There were also some placemats, table runners, bags and rolls. Most of these items are exported to Canada. Rentillo's raffia fabric is also sold to Iloilo and Manila manufacturers.

Modern furniture and furnishings were presented by Nelson Lima of Lima Interior Design, which engages in the production of native furniture using mixed media—abaca, bamboo, *pandan*, raffia/*buri*, seagrass, *nito*, shells and coconut sheaths.

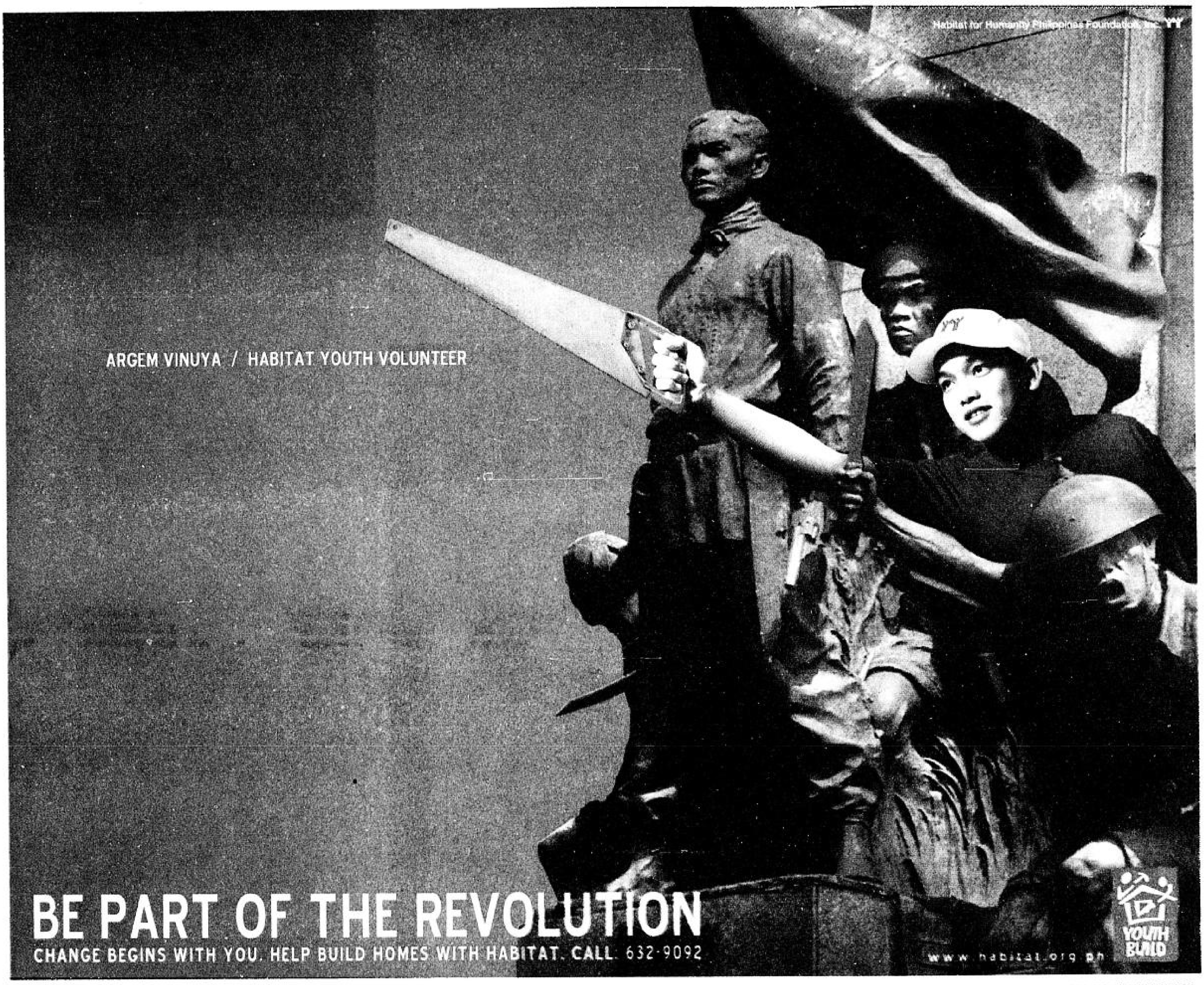
Lima produces dining sets, sala sets, dividers, side tables, outdoor furnishings, beds and others. Lima Interior Design (tel. 036-2654682) supplies hotels and resorts in Boracay as well as other parts of Panay Island with furniture products.

"The strength of the furniture sector lies in the abundance of main raw materials like rattan, bamboo, and

AKLAN'S/ F5



COLORFUL raffia handbags by Rentillo Enterprises.



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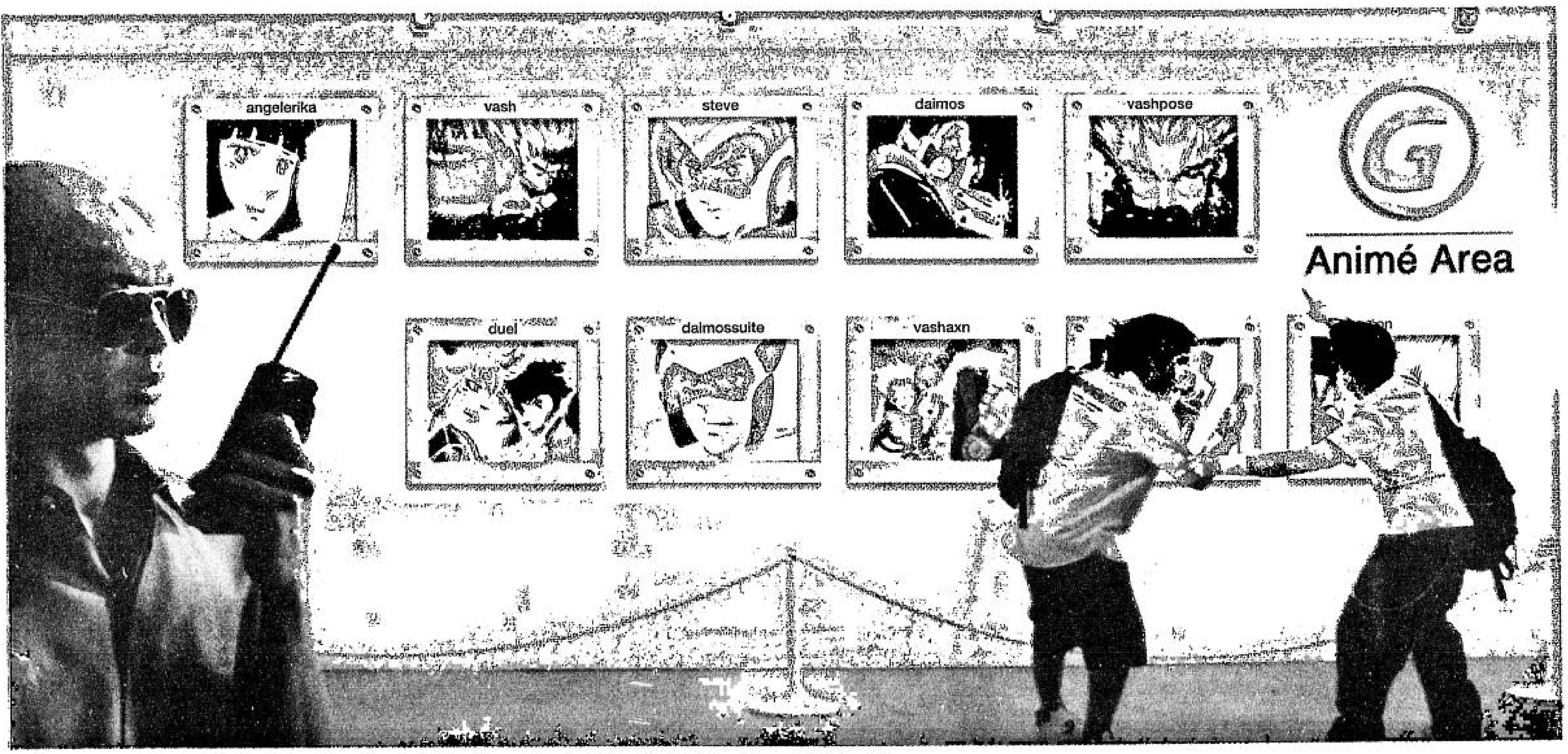

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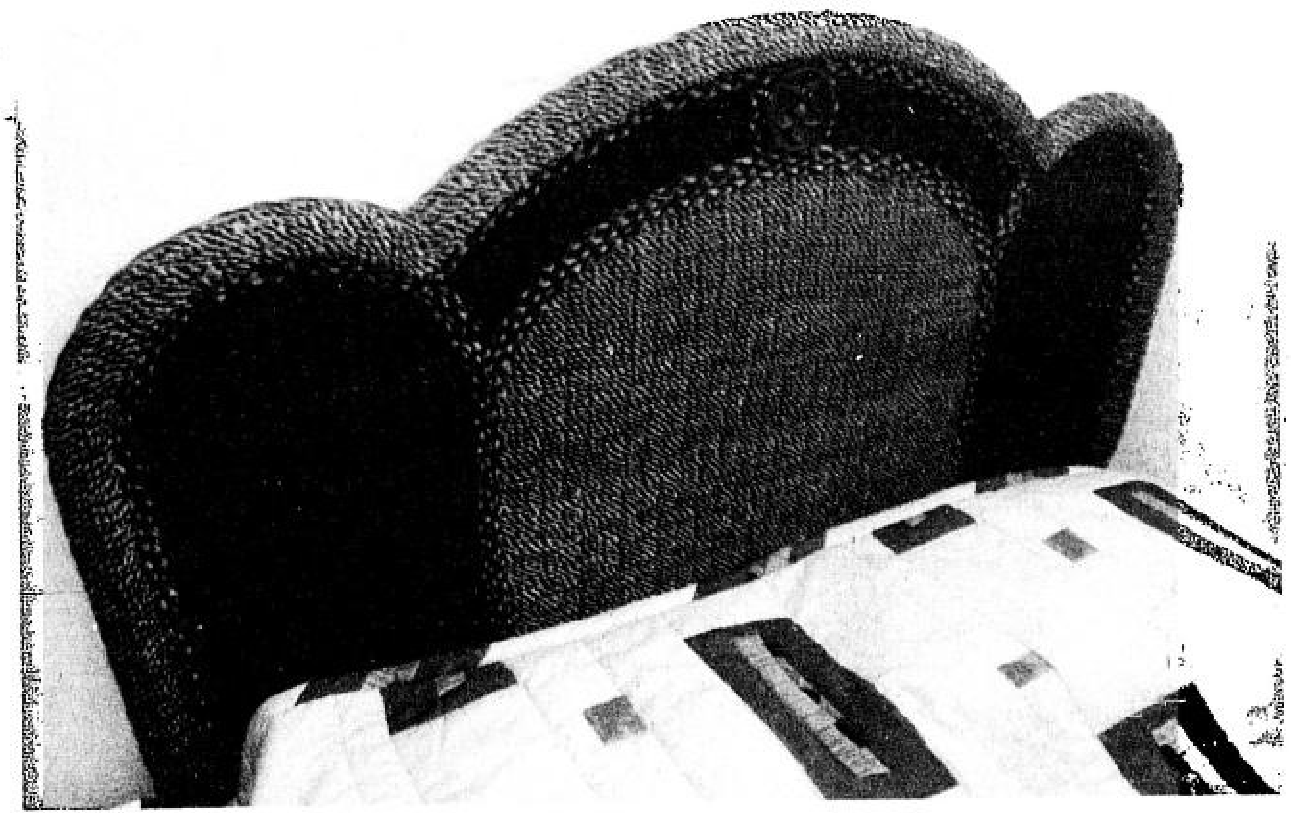
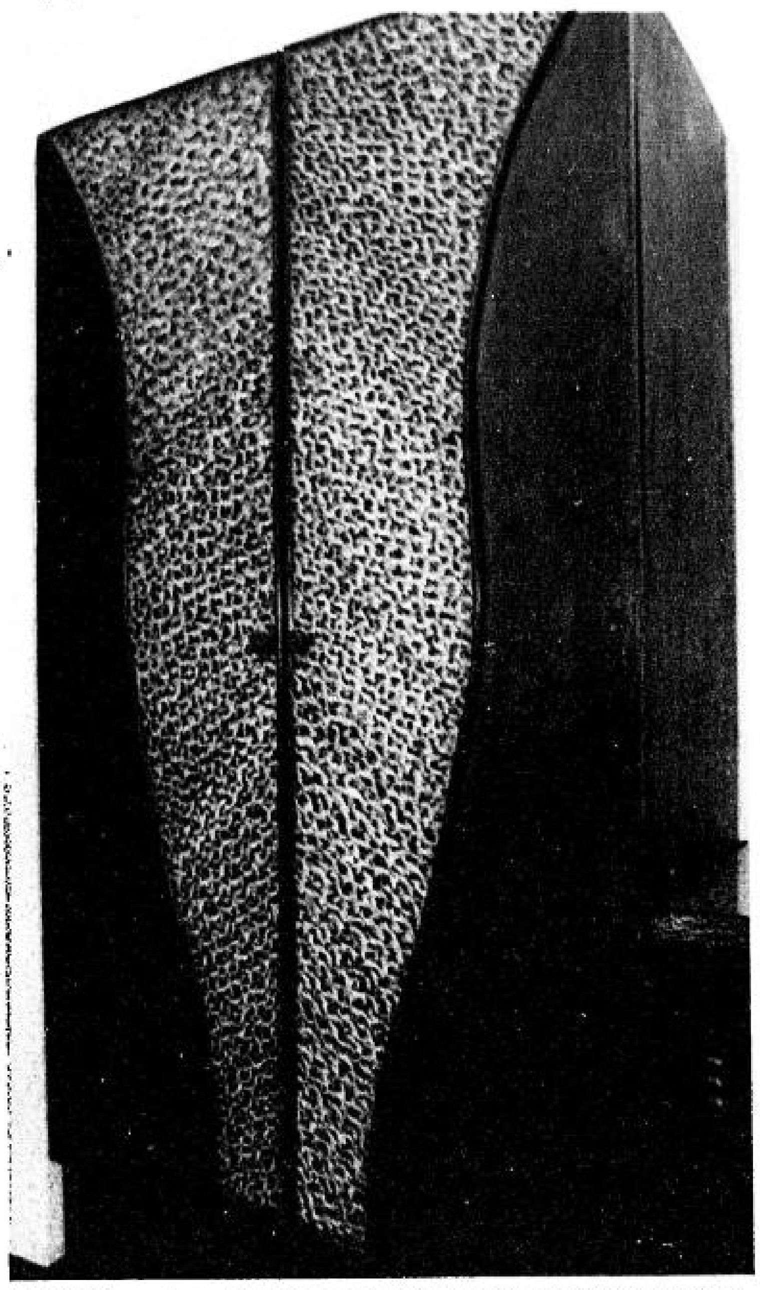
CLASSIC native headboard at Aldan Sampaguita Gardens Resort.





REFINED wooden cabinet accented with seagrass materials at Aklan Sampaguita Gardens Resort.

Aklan's . . .

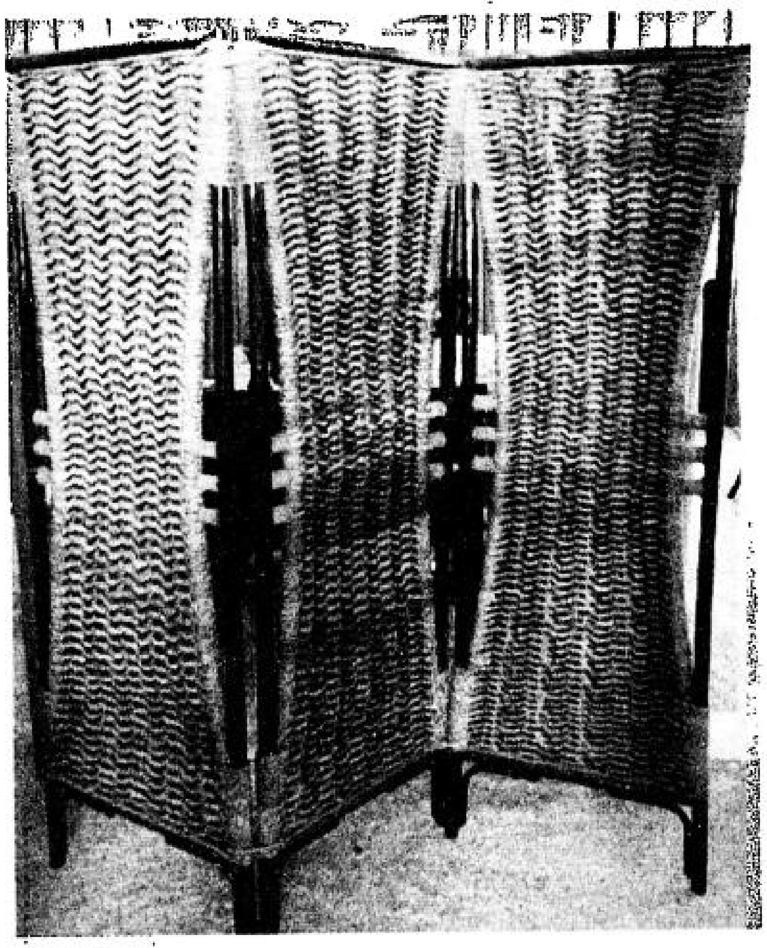
From page F4

wood and also vines and fiber," said Lima. "With these materials we try to come up with new designs and follow the trends."

In his collections, Lima also develops and uses other indigenous materials, such as seagrass, lampacanay, wood bark, abaca bark and agzam.

The Inquirer *Lifestyle trip to Aklan was made possible by the provincial government of Aklan and South East Asian Airlines (Seair). Seair has daily hourly flights to Caticlan, which is an hour away by bus from Kalibo and 25 minutes away by boat from Boracay.*

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



THREE-PANEL folding made of agzam and seagrass raw materials that provide durability, by Lima Interior Design.

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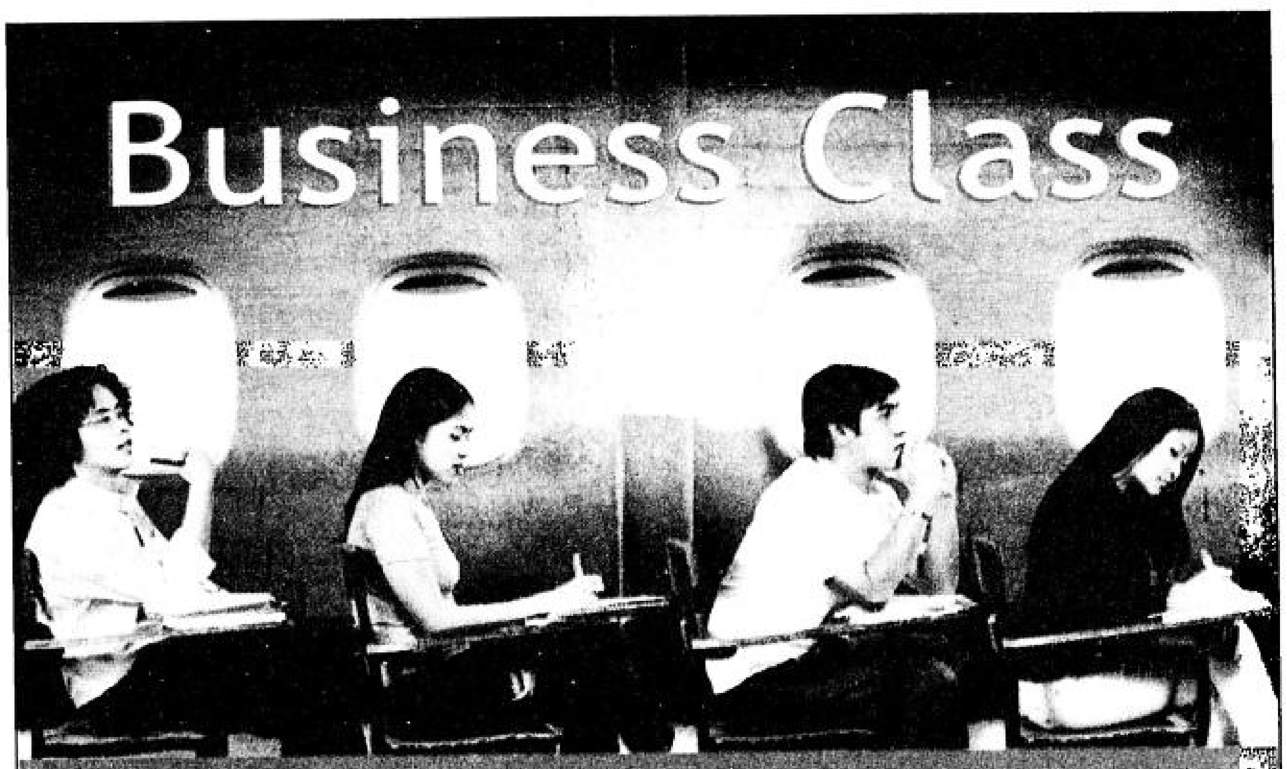

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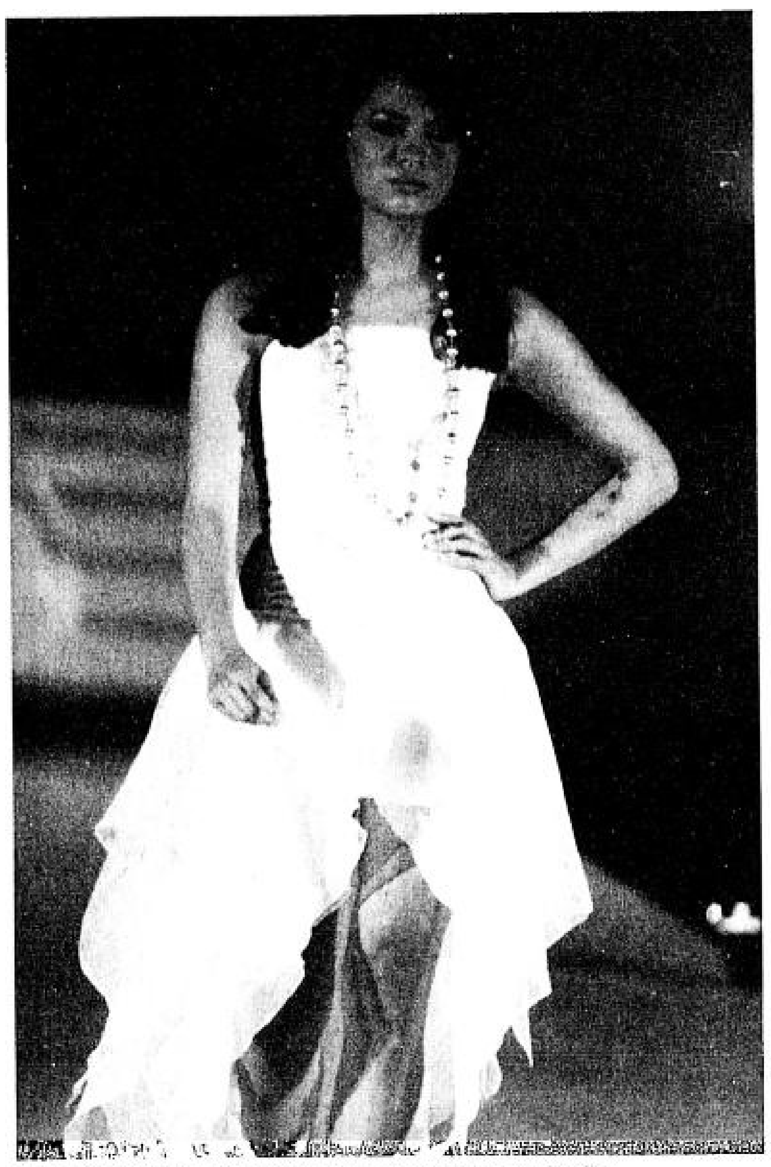


MULTILAYERED *piña* skirt with ruched strapless bodice

CALLADOED *piña* barong

SILK-SCREENED *piña* gown with ruffled hem

'Piña' culture builds up Aklan pride

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Mike Alquinto

DID you know that international trendsetters like Calvin Klein, Josie Natori, Donna Karan and Valentino have used pineapple fabric in their collections?

With Aklan's weaving industry, the *piña* cloth has earned a niche as one of the world's finest traditional fabrics, much like the silk of China and Japan and the lace of Belgium.

Kalibo, the capital of Aklan, is the biggest producer of *piña* in the Philippines. Last year alone, as a result of the 3rd Aklan Fiber Festival, *piña* manufacturers generated P2.99 million in cash sales and bookings.

The Aklan Fiber Festival seeks to preserve, develop and promote the age-old crafts tradition of Aklan. It is usually held in connection with the foundation anniversary of Aklan as an independent province from Capiz.

To boost its handloom industry and explore the multidimensional character of the *piña*, a fashion show titled "Aninag" was presented at the Kalibo Gymnasium.

The show featured the designs of Nono Palmos and the accessories of PJ Arañador, the festival's project director.

In the segment "Revelry," Arañador showcased *piña*-based accessories such as scarves, bandanas, bags and jewelry combined with other fabrics and unorthodox clothing materials such as soft wire.

In "Ritual," Palmos fashioned a collection of subtly elegant evening wear with modern beadwork and a variety of fabric paintings: spray painting, hand painting, embossed painting and silk screen imaging.

Inspired by the natural beauty and richness of Panay, Palmos created a line of resort wear in "Gala" that covered day wear and evening fashion. His segment featured swimsuits wrapped in flowing *piña* robes, skeletal jackets, evening and bridal gowns.

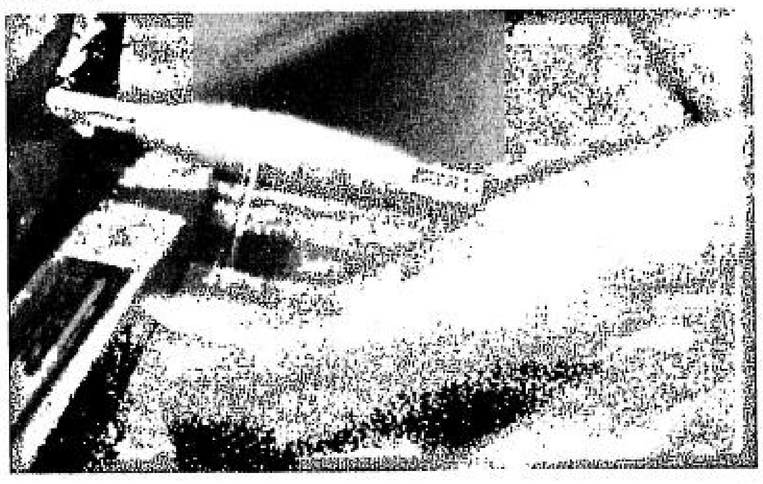
"Aklan has a unique tourism potential. Aside from its Ati-Atihan and Boracay, its crafts are worth looking into. Our company, for example, has revived fine *piña* and *abaca* cloths," said India Legaspi, president of the Piña Manufacturers and Traders Association and owner of Heritage Arts and Crafts in Kalibo.

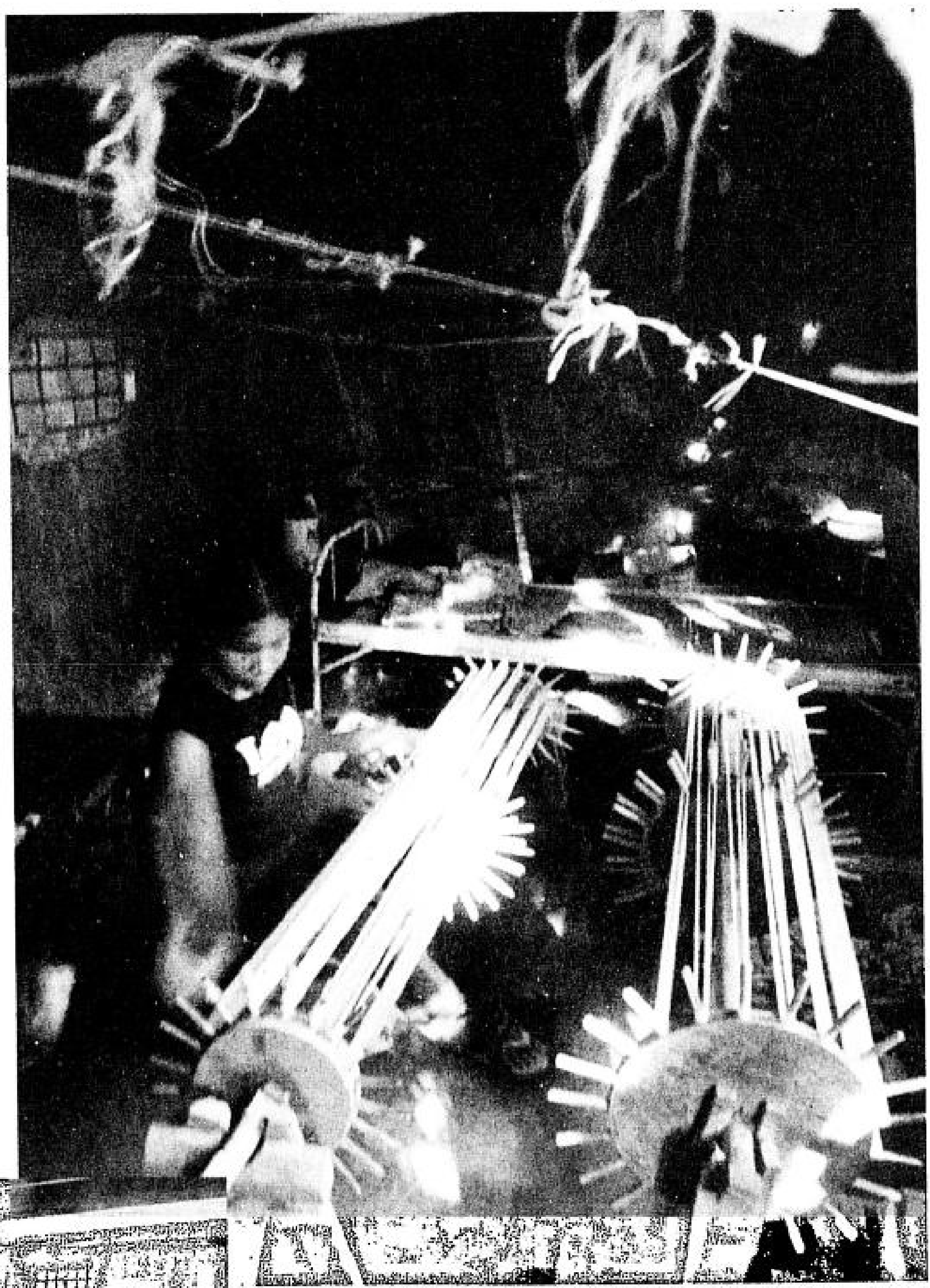
Heritage has been exporting *piña seda* cloth products for the Josie Natori line and dyed *abaca* cushion covers for the Calvin Klein Home collection since 2000. It is currently developing a wider width of *piña seda* for a fashion house in France.

The company's handwoven cloths—*piña*, *piña seda*, silk, banana *seda*, banana, *abaca* and raffia, which are used for garments, bags, hats, cloth lining, throw pillow cases, placemats, napkins and novelty items—are exhib

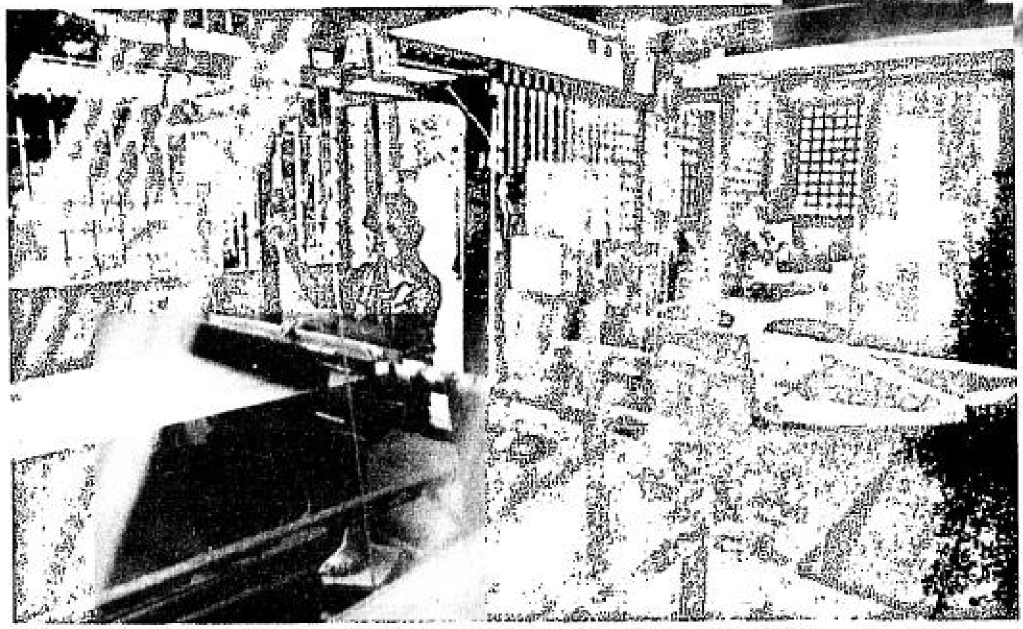
PIÑA/ F7

THREAD for the weft is wound on bobbins made of small pieces of bamboo.





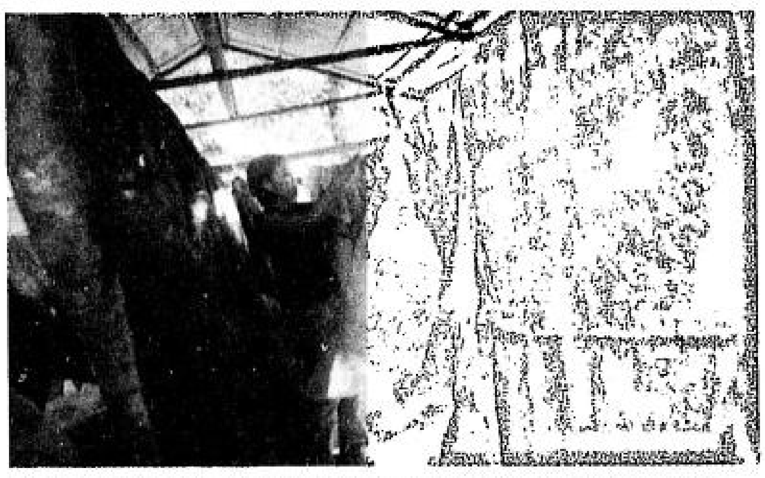
A WORKER at Heritage Arts and Crafts warps threads on cylindrical frames.



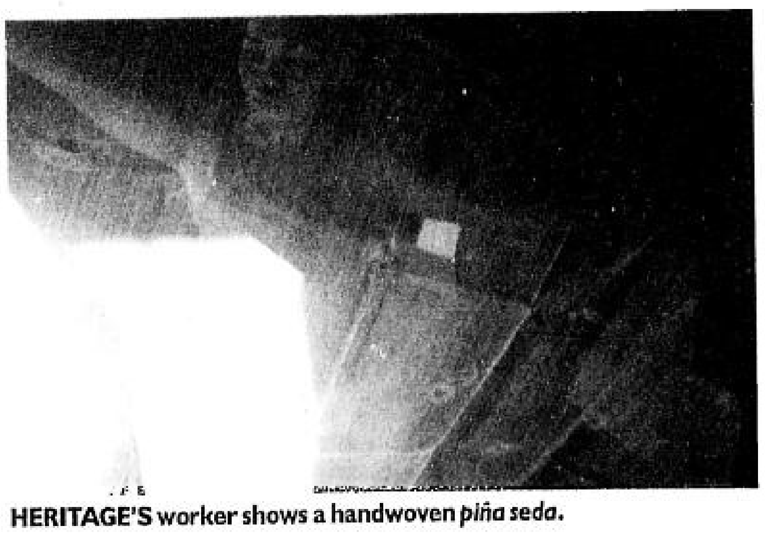
LERINA Rembulat, 65, the first weaver of Heritage when it started in 1989, works at her loom.

The fine cloth has resisted mechanization by pretenders from Japan and China, and remains tediously but magically handwoven in the artistic hands of Aklanons

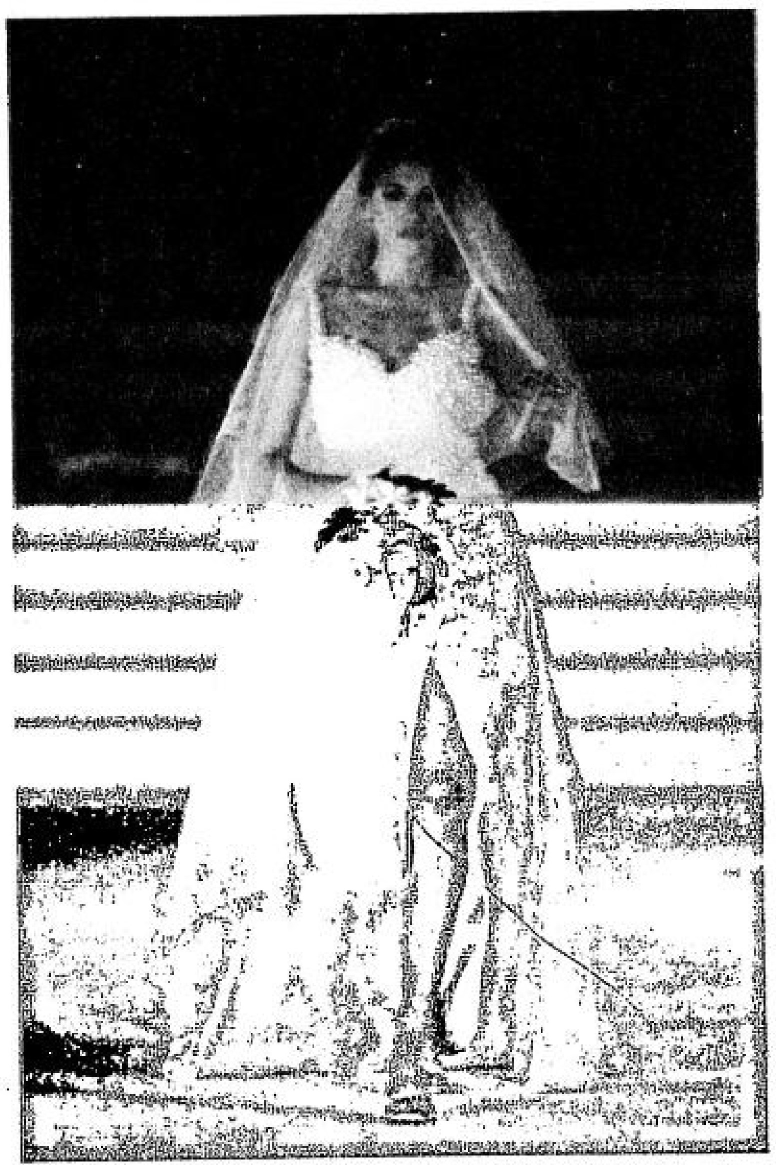
HERITAGE'S worker dyes a *piña* cloth.



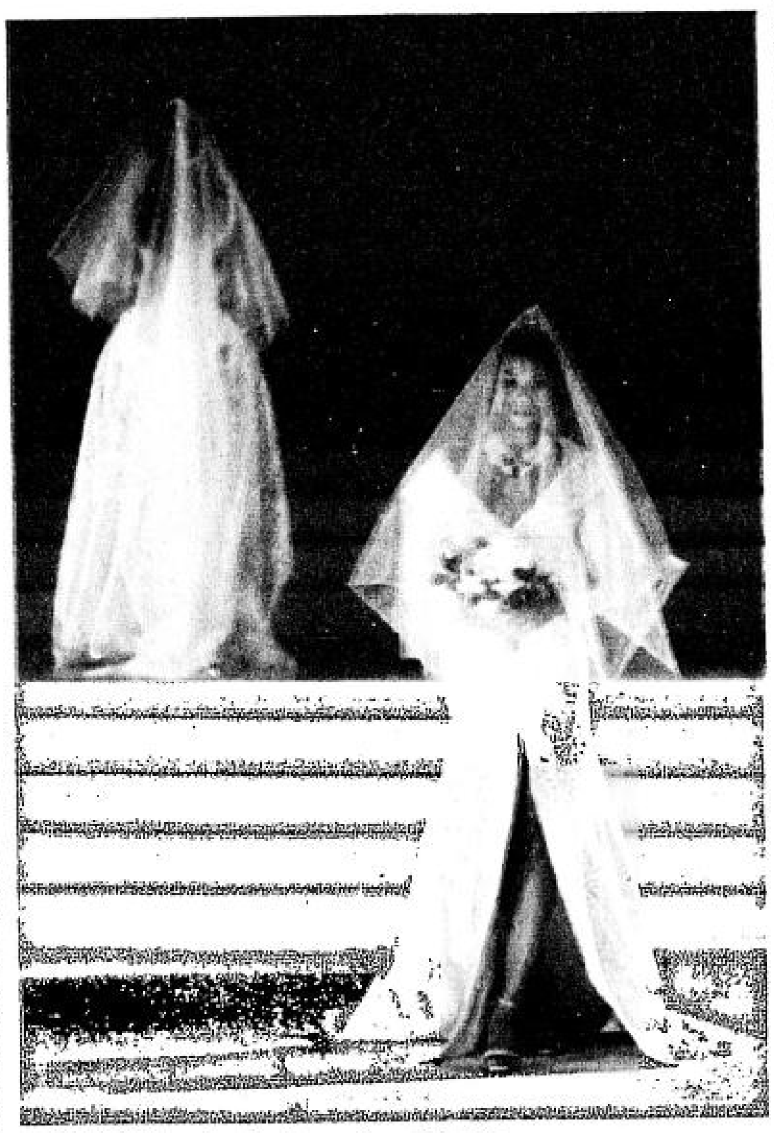
AFTER WEAVING, the *piña* cloth is washed in rice water or citrus juice, dyed and hung to dry.



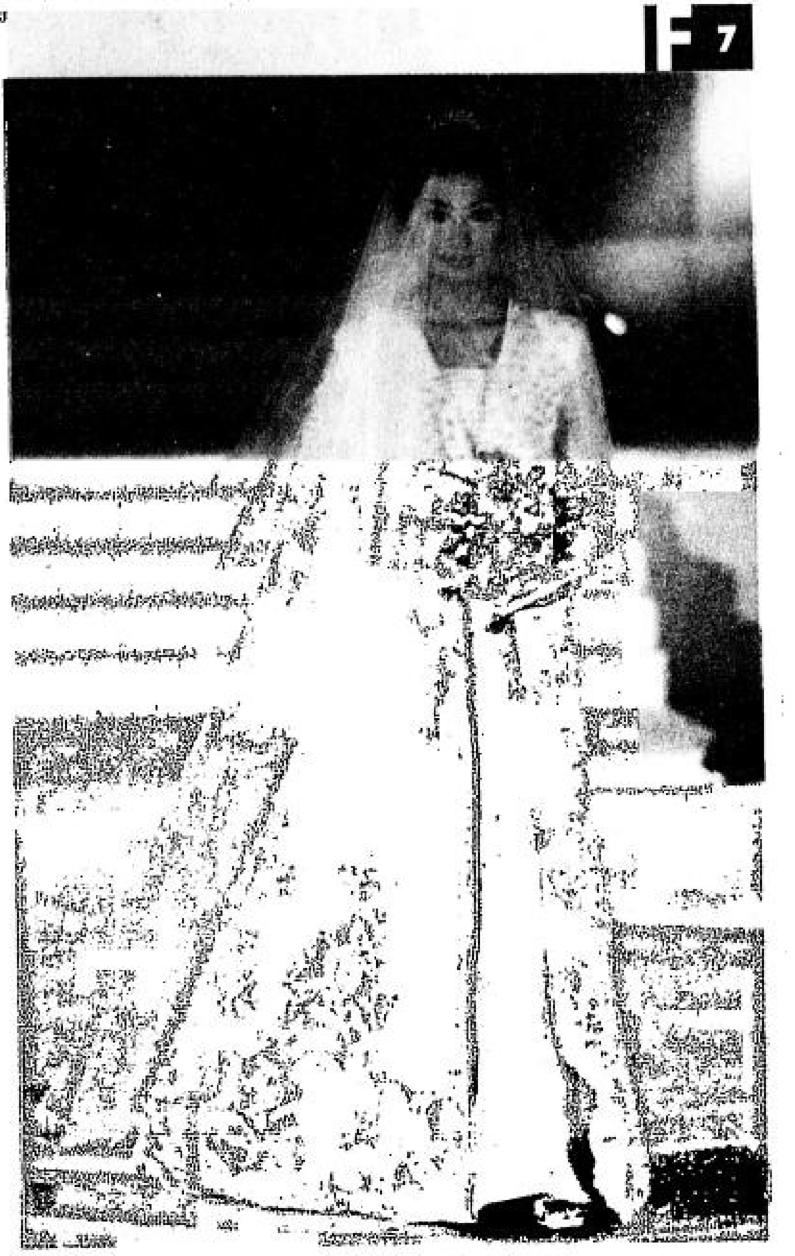
HERITAGE'S worker shows a handwoven *piña seda*.



HERE COME THE BRIDES. Beaded top with *piña* veil and skirt...



... **MARIA** Clara-inspired *panuelo* and sleeves...



... **OVERCOAT** with floral appliqués and beading

From page F6

ited at the Textile Museum in Toronto, Canada until June.

"The global market is very big and we have barely scratched the surface. The technology is basically traditional with innovations to modernize traditional designs and make them acceptable in the modern world," said Javier Legaspi, CEO of Heritage Arts and Crafts.

Heritage not only produces exquisitely beautiful handcrafted products, but provides livelihood to Aklanons as well. It also promotes the preservation of the country's rich history and tradition by focusing on the revival of traditional crafts. "This is why we've been training the younger generation so the torch can be passed on," India said.

Intricate work

Watching Lerina Rembulat, 65, work on her loom at Heritage, one is amazed at the intricacy of the designs and the patience which which she weaves high-quality cloth with simple loom and implements.

A former textile worker, Rembulat was the first weaver of Heritage when it started in 1989. The company now employs 250 weavers supported by a production group of about 300 in barangays New Buswang, Old Buswang, Bakhaw Sur and Bakhaw Norte, Kalibo, Banga, Balete, Lezo and Malinao.

Rembulat does techniques like *ringgue* (alternating with plain weaving to make a checkered and lattice effect); inlaid-weaving designs called *pili* or *sinuksok*; a combination of *ringgue* and *pili* weaving (the design pattern made from *sinuksok* is incorporated into the lattice type of cloth or *ringgue* weave); and *saeanigo* or twill weave.

She also does embroidery, particularly *callado*, where certain weft and warp yarns are drawn out or pulled and the spaces are filled with repeated stitches. When using shadow embroidery or the fine applique technique, she patches a beautifully colored design like flowers on a *piña* cloth and sews them together.

Considering the fineness and fragility of the material, a weaver can only make a quarter of a meter of *piña* cloth in a day.

A lot has been done to modernize the process. "Different people like the Japanese, Koreans and Americans have tried to replicate the process using mechanical techniques to ensure faster processing, bigger volume and lower costs but, so far, their efforts have failed because of the physical characteristics of the material," Javier said.

The manufacturing process of *piña* cloth, which comes from pineapple fibers, is done by hand in the traditional way—from fiber extraction, knotting, warping, winding to weaving.

"Each step in the production is a painstakingly slow process and a measure of incredible patience, a trait that is increasingly lost in the modern world," Rembulat said.

Heritage Arts and Crafts is located at 1476 Datu Bangkaya Ave., Kalibo, Aklan; tel. (063-036) 268-5455 and (063-036) 268-5270; fax (063-036) 268-5455 and (063-036) 268-5270; e-mail heritage@kalibo.i-next.net.

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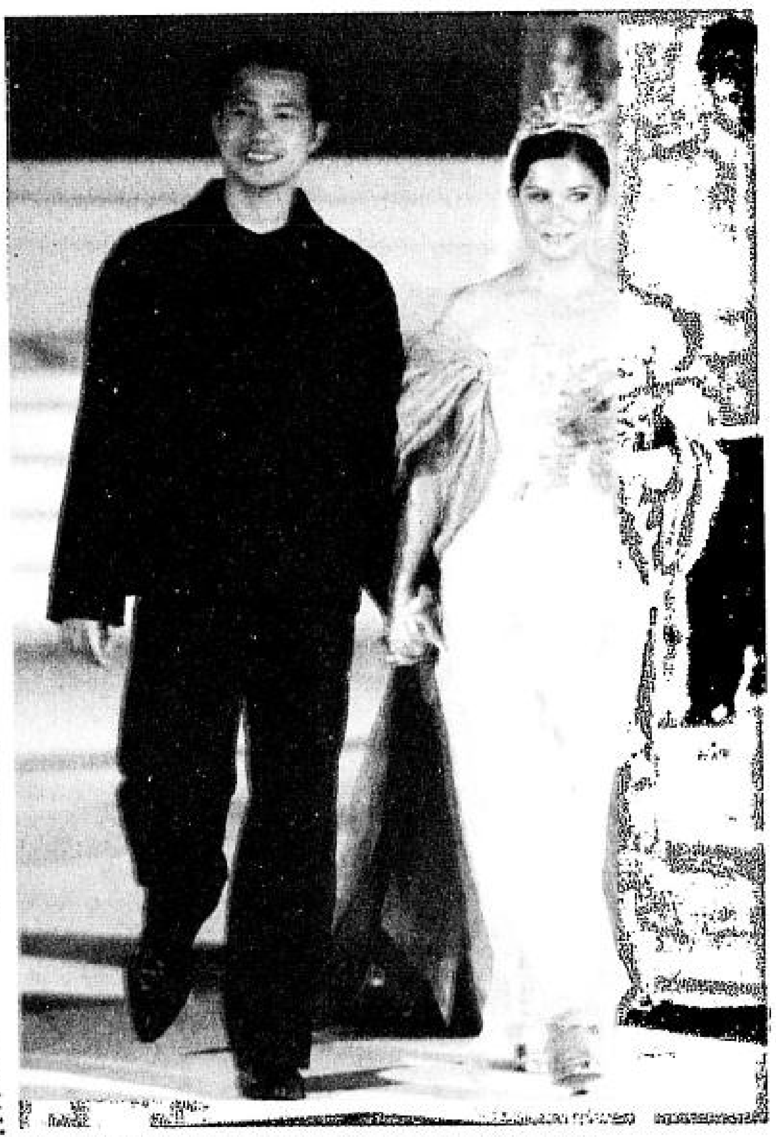

DESIGNER Nono Palmos with actress Dina Bonnevie

LILAC ensemble with fully beaded top and shirred skirt

MINISKIRT with ruffled asymmetric top and matching shawl

DYED *piña* suit

STRIPED ensemble with fringed midriff top

THREE-BUTTON blazer

MINI dress with flounce and appliquéd overcoat

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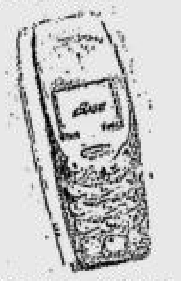

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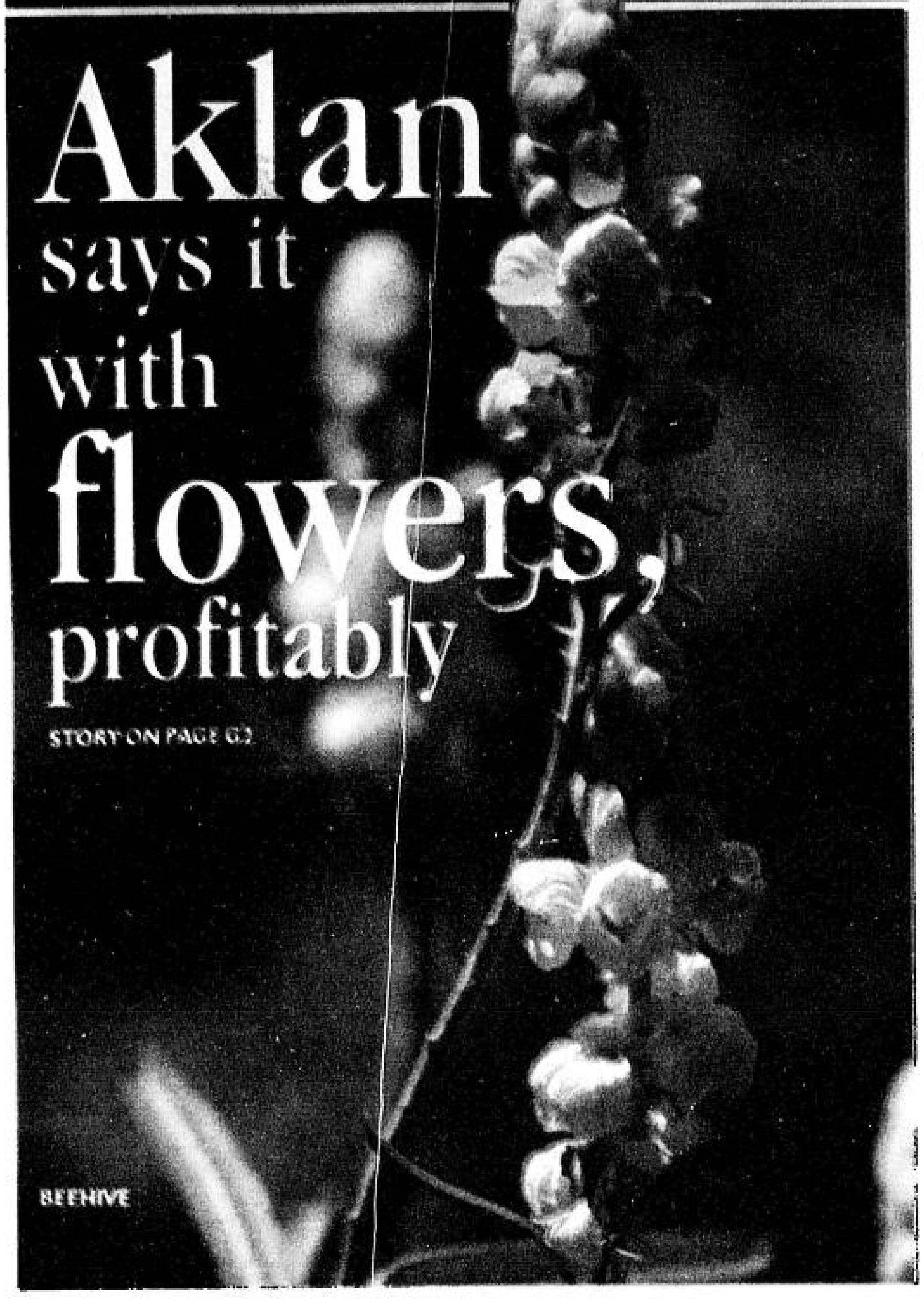
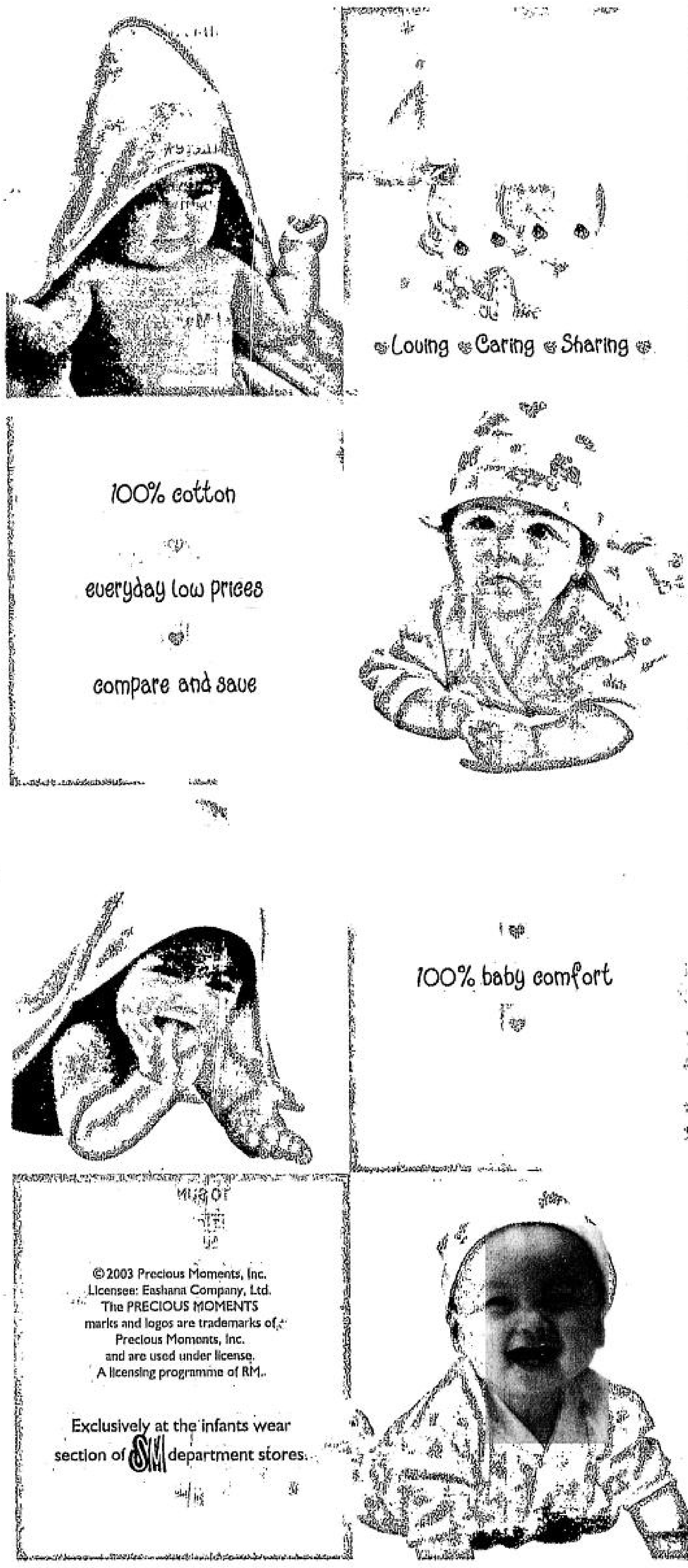


Aklan says it with flowers, profitably

STORY ON PAGE G2



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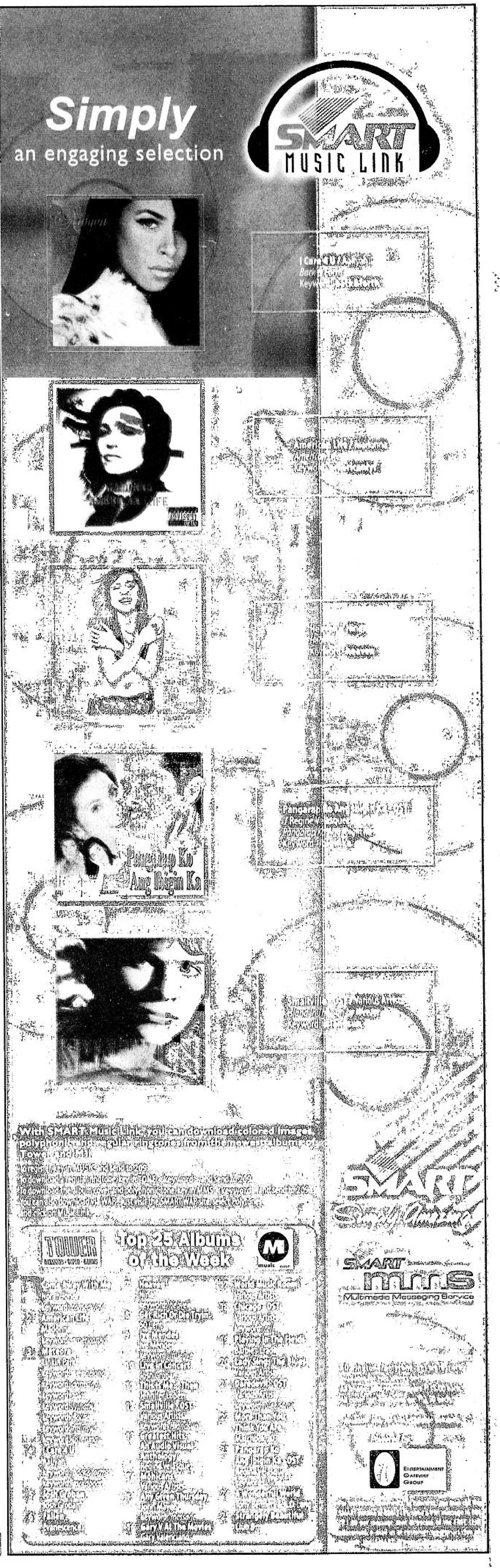

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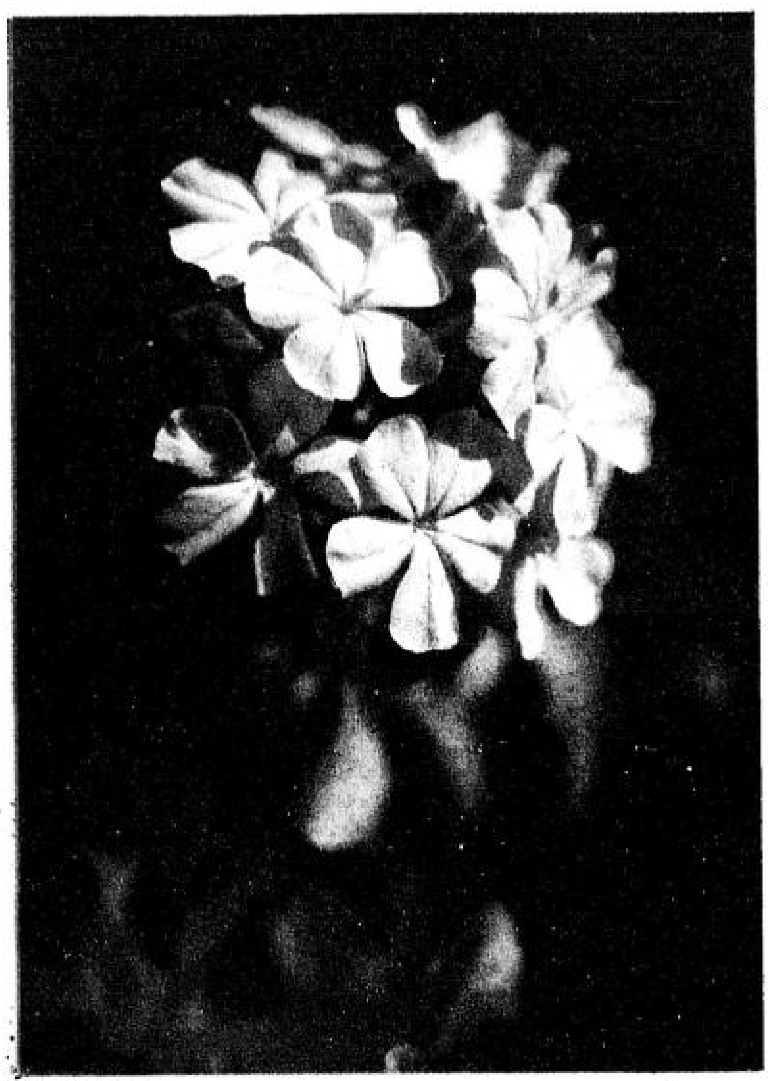
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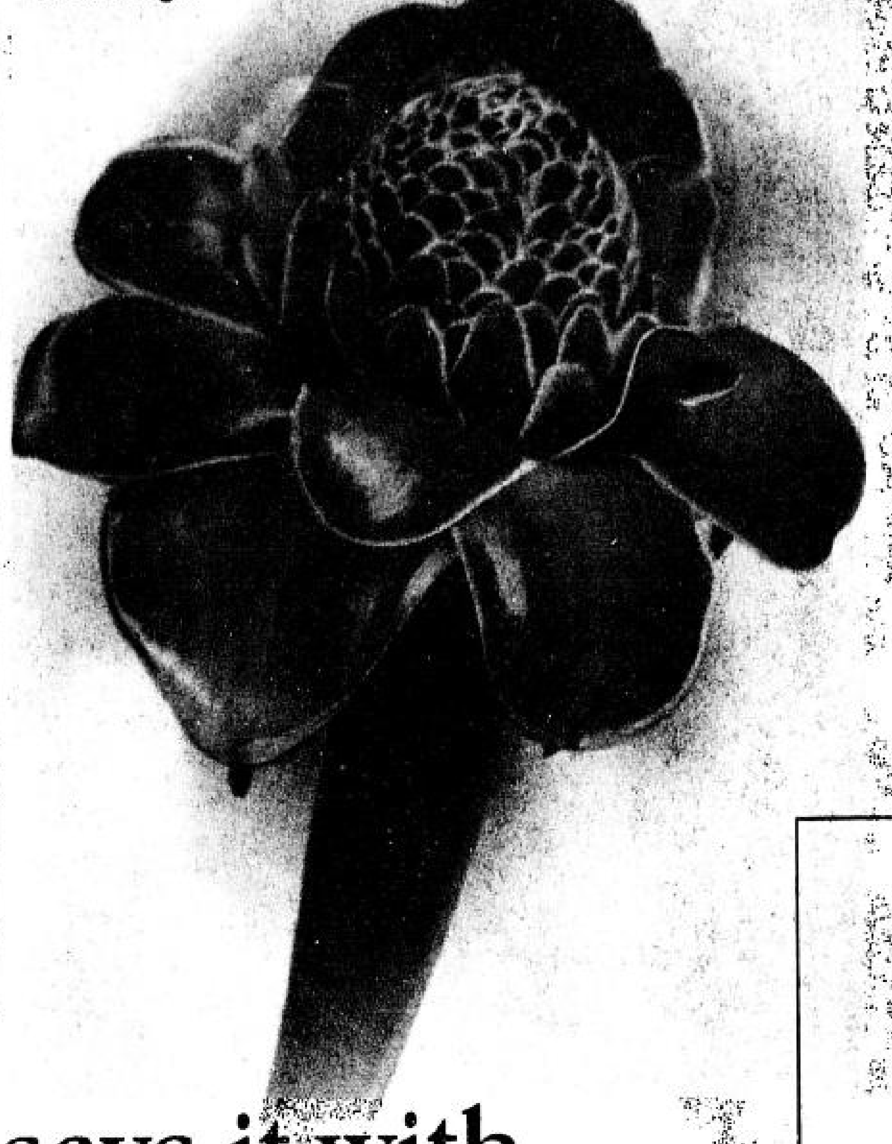
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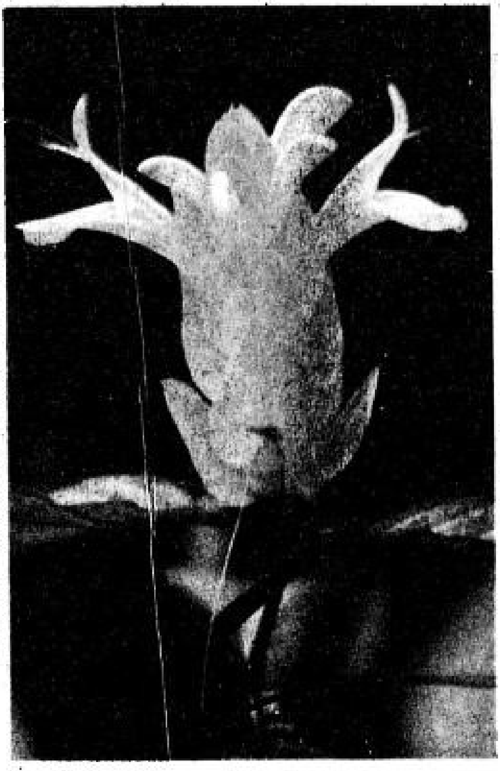

GOLDEN Shrimp

BOUGAINVILL

Aklan says it with flowers, profitably

The province with rich flora has evolved a tropical garden industry that is ecologically sound and financially rewarding

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Mike Alquinto

WHITE Angel

MONEY may not grow on trees, but for Edith Sazon, owner of Sazon Tropical Garden in Marianos, Numancia, Aklan, some gardens can sprout handsome checks.

During her high school and college days, Sazon bartered plants with friends and classmates. At that time, her family lived in the fishpond area in Dongon, Numancia, where water is scarce. "Despite such problem, I managed to put up a small garden of bougainvilleas, santans and a few vegetables and fruits," she said.

Through the years, her garden collection has expanded to include daisies, orchids, cacti and palms. During her travels here and abroad, Sazon visited garden shops to buy plants for her collection.

In 1978, Sazon's family transferred to a new house along National Highway in Numancia. After 12 years of teaching at Roxas Memorial College of Arts and Trade (now the Aklan State University), she quit her job and focused on putting up plants in front of her home to cover up the unfinished construction. "Passersby were attracted to my pots of roses, which I sold for P5 a piece. Over the years, my flower arrangements earned much appreciation, too," Sazon said. "My daily earnings from selling plants and doing arrangements were higher than my school salary. Besides, I had more time for my husband and children. Surely, this must be worth something."

Challenges

At regional meetings of cutflowers associations, which Sazon used to attend, she and representatives from Antique and Aklan would just listen to those from Bacolod, Iloilo and Roxas as they talked about their area expansions.

"We could not present big areas of garden production so I thought of buying four hectares of land at National Highway Venturanza in Banga, Aklan, where I planted tropical plants and fruits," the vice president of Aklan Cutflowers Association said.

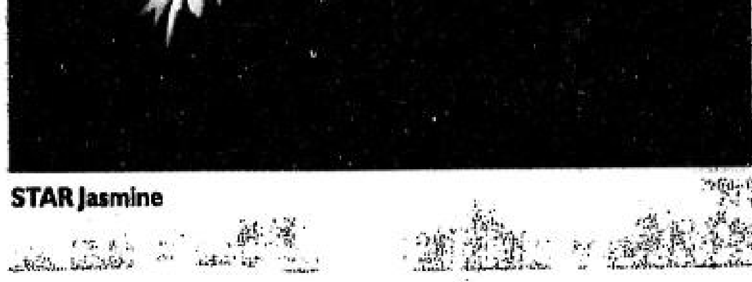
Last year, Sazon Tropical Garden bought a display area on Andagao Street, Sta. Monica, Kalibo (tels. 036-268-8650 and 036-268-7111; fax 036-268-8000), which now sells ornamental plants for landscape, interiorscape and seascape.

In its 5,000-sq m garden and propagation area in Marianos, Numancia (tels. 036-265-4800 and 036-265-4602; and fax 036-265-3888), Sazon Tropical Garden houses an ar-

MEDINILLA

GINSENG (Jatropha Podagrica)

DESERT Rose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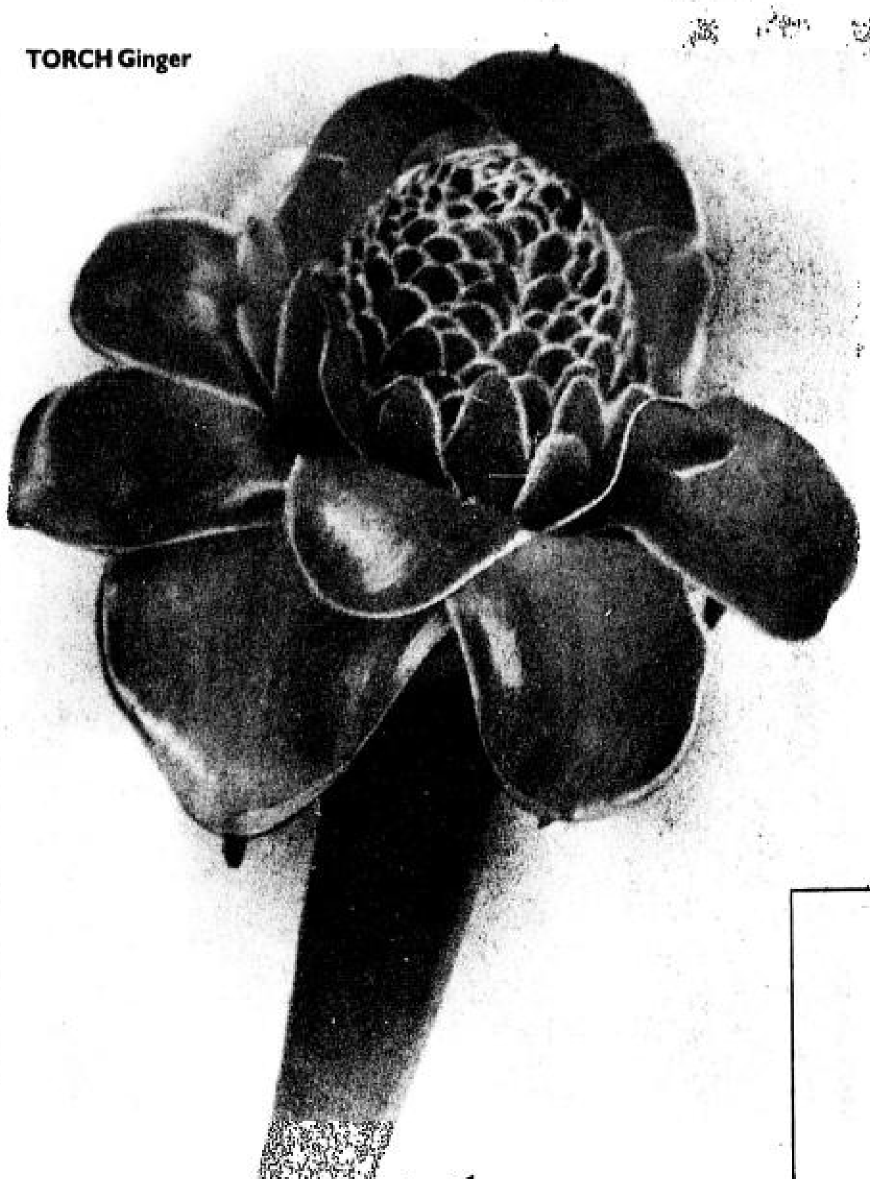
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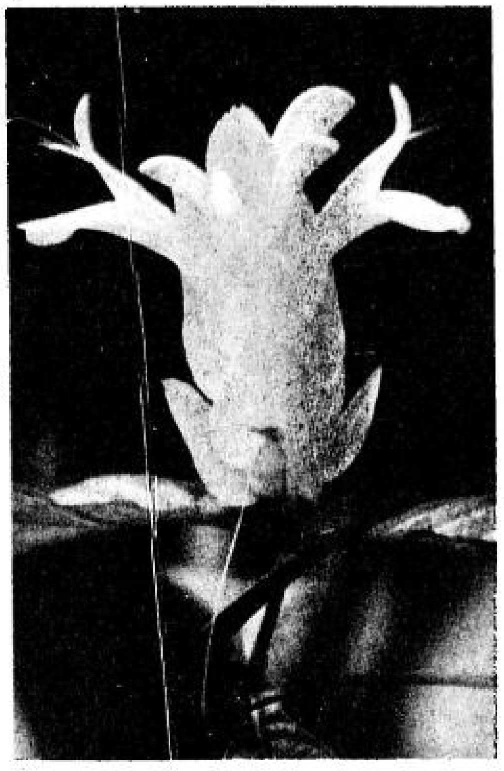
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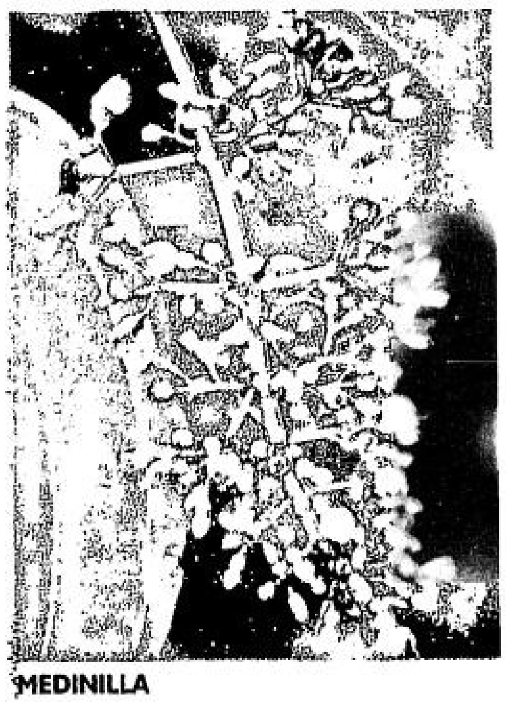
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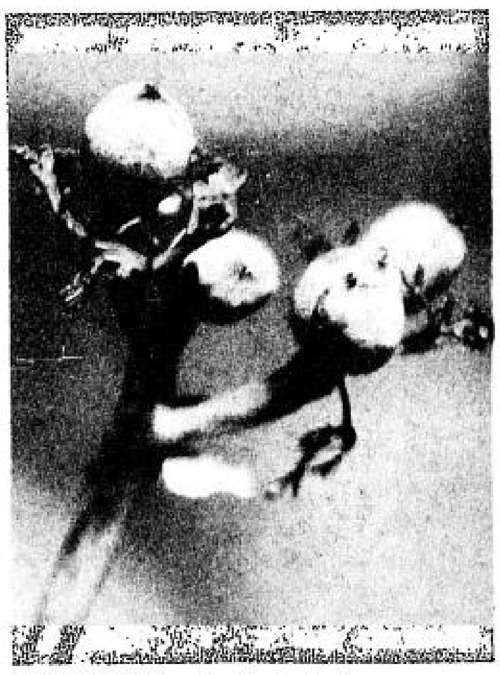
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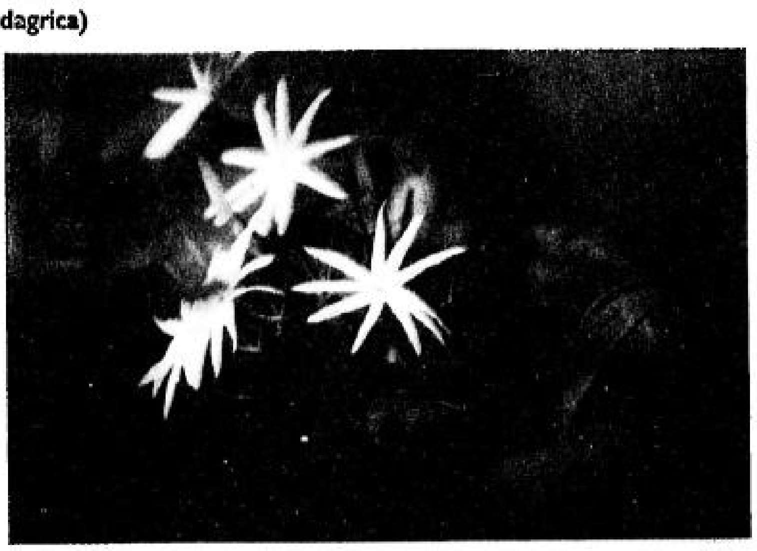
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A

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ORNAMENTAL Banana

YELLOW Lobster Claw Heliconia

RED Lobster Claw Heliconia

ray of plant specimens, with enough shapes, textures and blooms to engage any gardener and plant enthusiast.

"The business is big enough to supply the nearby towns of Kalibo and Boracay," Sazon said.

Like any business, Sazon Tropical Garden has problems such as delays in the delivery of pots, which come from Manila and nearby provinces, and infestation of plants.

"To overcome the delivery problem, we buy pots in big volumes. When it comes to infestation, we use insecticides, pesticides, fungicides and other organic chemicals," Sazon said.

Environment-friendly

Sazon Tropical Garden, said Ronilo Sandaya, who supervises the garden and nursery, uses environment-friendly chemicals such as pepper concoction and soap solution.

Pepper concoction, Sandaya said, is a mixture of dry leaves, coconut husks and vermi soil.

On the other hand, soap solution, a mixture of powder detergent and water, is sprayed on plants to prevent insects from destroying them.

As her business fuels her passion for gardening, Sazon is bent on building a laboratory for tissue culture so she'll be able to meet the demands of the world market 10 years from now.

"Working with nature has taught me to recognize that every living thing in the garden—every plant, animal, bird, insect, moth, and worm—is connected, part of an intricate web of life with a built-in system of checks and balances designed to keep our gardens, the land, and ultimately ourselves, healthy," Sazon said.

The INQUIRER *Lifestyle trip to Aklan was made possible by the provincial government of Aklan and South East Asian Airlines (Seair). Seair has daily hourly flights to Caticlan, which is an hour away by bus from Kalibo, and 25 minutes away by boat from Boracay.*

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

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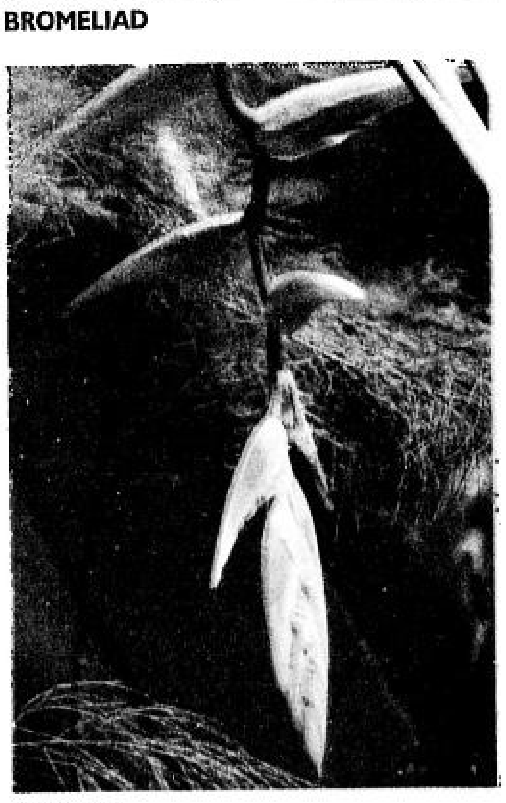

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PSITACORUM

ORNAMENTAL Banana

YELLOW Lobster Claw Heliconia

RED Lobster Claw Heliconia

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ray of plant specimens, with enough shapes, textures and blooms to engage any gardener and plant enthusiast.

"The business is big enough to supply the nearby towns of Kalibo and Boracay," Sazon said.

Like any business, Sazon Tropical Garden has problems such as delays in the delivery of pots, which come from Manila and nearby provinces, and infestation of plants.

"To overcome the delivery problem, we buy pots in big volumes. When it comes to infestation, we use insecticides, pesticides, fungicides and other organic chemicals," Sazon said.

Environment-friendly

Sazon Tropical Garden, said Ronilo Sandaya, who supervises the garden and nursery, uses environment-friendly chemicals such as pepper concoction and soap solution.

Pepper concoction, Sandaya said, is a mixture of dry leaves, coconut husks and vermi soil.

On the other hand, soap solution, a mixture of powder detergent and water, is sprayed on plants to prevent insects from destroying them.

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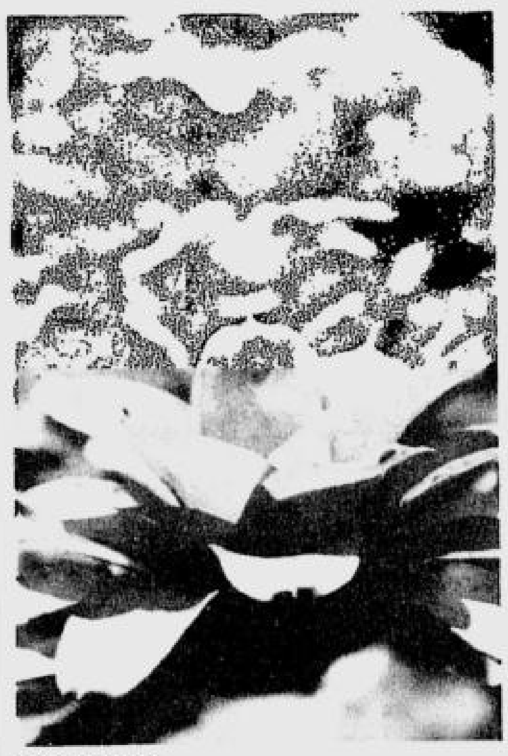

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1. The promo is open to all Globe subscribers and can be accessed using service number 2910. Each text message sent costs ₱2.00 for postpaid & ₱2.50 for prepaid subscribers.
2. To start playing, answer the following question with T or F and send to 2910:
"True or False, Jim Carrey has won 9 MTV Movie Awards?"
3. Register by typing <answer> <full name> <complete address> <age> and send to 2910. Ex: T Mike Ang 1-A 3rd St Pque 22
4. Registration is one time only and is free of charge. Only registered participants can win. Registration is one name per cellphone number only.
5. For instructions, the subscriber can type in HELP MTV and send to 2910.
6. Trivia questions will be sent until you stop answering. To continue playing, subscribers must type MTV and send to 2910.
7. You get 10 points for every correct answer.
8. To check your earned points, type POINTS & send to 2910.
9. Prizes

   Daily
   There will be 5 daily winners of MTV merchandise based on the top scorers of the day.
   1st Top Scorer — VCD
   2nd Top Scorer — VCD Bag
   3rd Top Scorer — Disk FM Radio
   4th Top Scorer — MTV T-shirt
   5th Top Scorer — Tumbler

   Weekly
   There will be 3 weekly winners for 3 weeks of a Nokia 6100 or Samsung phone. Highest scorer from 12:00am Monday to 11:59pm Sunday will be the weekly winner.

   Grand Prize
   There will be four grand prize winners of free round trip tickets to LA plus pocket money to watch the MTV Movie Awards. The 4 overall top scorers from 12am, April 27 of day 1 to 11:59pm, May 18 of the last day of the promo period win the grand prize.

   Grand prize winners who want to avail of the trip should have an existing passport and US Visa and must be ready to leave for L.A. on or before May 29, 2003. Grand prize is convertible to cash in the amount of ₱95,000.
11. 20% Tax for Prizes exceeding ₱10,000 shall be shouldered by MTV Philippines.
12. In case of a tie, the subscriber who attained the top score first based on logged time as indicated in the database is determined as the winner.
13. Daily and weekly determination of winners will be done every Monday at the 3rd Floor, 7823 Makati Finance Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City, at 5:00pm witnessed by a DTI Representative. Grand prize winners will be determined on May 19, 2003 at the same venue and time.
14. All winners shall be notified via a call to their mobile phones and by registered mail.
15. Participants can win only once for the daily and weekly prize during the entire promo period. However, he/she can still win the grand prize.
16. Winners from Metro Manila may claim their prizes at MTV Philippines with address at 33F, Citibank Tower, Valero St., Legazpi Village, Makati. To claim, winners must bring a valid ID together with the registered mail and the winning SIM card.
18. Provincial winners will receive their prizes via courier service.
19. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days from receipt of registered mail notification. All unclaimed prizes after the 60 day period will be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.
20. Promo is available Nationwide.
21. All employees of Globe /MTV/ Tetra Technologies, Inc. up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo.

[illegible] April 27 [illegible] 2003 Per DTI-NCR [illegible]

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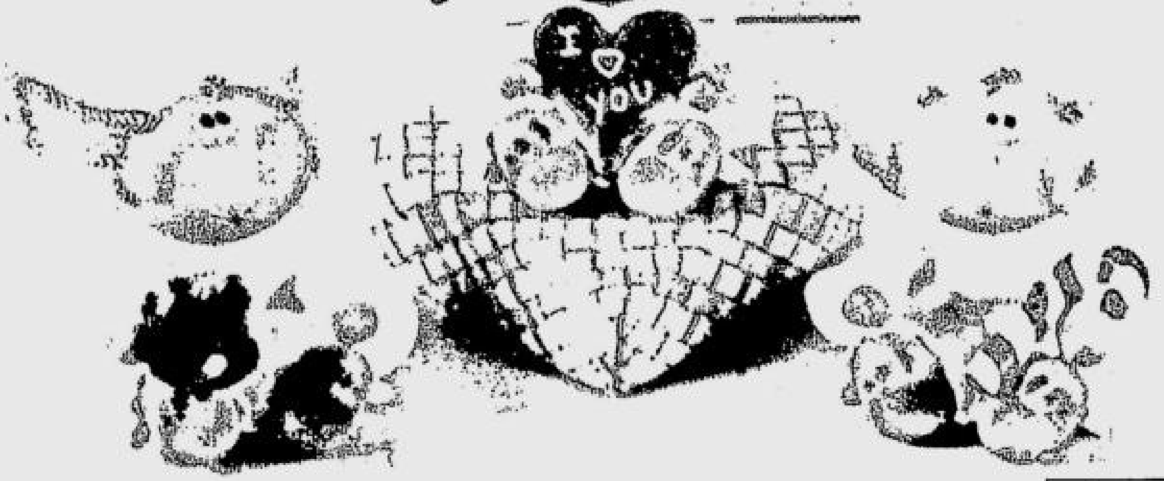
Ham



Russ has two kinds of gift products, the seasonal and the everyday; but if you ask its Filipino CEO Angelica Urra-Berrie, they sell only love and friendship

Making someone happy

Text by Chelo Banal-Formoso
Photos by Chito Vecina

WALK into any Gift Gate store with the intent of looking for a Mother's Day present for any mom—your children's mother, your grandchildren's mother, your friend's mother—*y tu mama tambien*. Chances are, nine times out of 10, your attention will be riveted to the shelves with all kinds of witty items from the American gift company that urges the world to "Make someone happy."

A menagerie of puppies, kittens, bears, rabbits and other plush animals; frames with kiddie, country and friendship motifs; message plaques; candles in candy colors and scents; rag dolls and angels; home decor—the range is interesting as Gift Gate, the exclusive Russ distributor in the Philippines, carries almost everything in the collection.

Gifts are tricky things. An item can catch your attention, but you have to see its emotional link to the recipient before it can prompt you toward the cashier. And that human connection is the formula Russ Berrie and Company has mastered through the 40 years of its existence.

It is interesting how big-ticket packages (toasters, anyone?) don't usually tug at your heartstrings as much as a Russ keepsake that costs less than P300. You get a Russ gift that makes you laugh—or cry—and you keep it for years. Somehow you can't bring yourself to throw a Russ away. You clean out the den for your annual garage sale and you rediscover the Russ ceramic plaque your kids gave you for Mother's Day back when the four-letter words they knew were all wholesome, and before you know it you are young again, beguiled again.

Love and friendship

"As Russ always said, we don't sell products, we sell love and friendship," said Angelica Urra-Berrie, referring to her late husband Russ Berrie, the man who founded the company with start-up capital of $500 which he parlayed into a $300-million international business.

Russ Berrie died last Dec. 25. How poetic that the man who had been sourcing and selling countless lines of gift products since 1963 died on Christmas Day, the biggest gift-giving day of the year.

Angelica recalled a cruise where she and her husband met Washington Sycip, the venerable founder of the accounting firm Sycip, Gorres and Velayo: "Russ asks Wash what he does for a living and Wash goes, 'I'm a bookkeeper. And you, what do you do?' And Russ says 'I'm a salesman.' Russ always said he wanted to die selling."

The 48-year-old Filipina from Bacolod flew

MAKING/ H2

THE CEO with her Angel Cheeks line

ANGELICA Berrie with her Country Gathering collection

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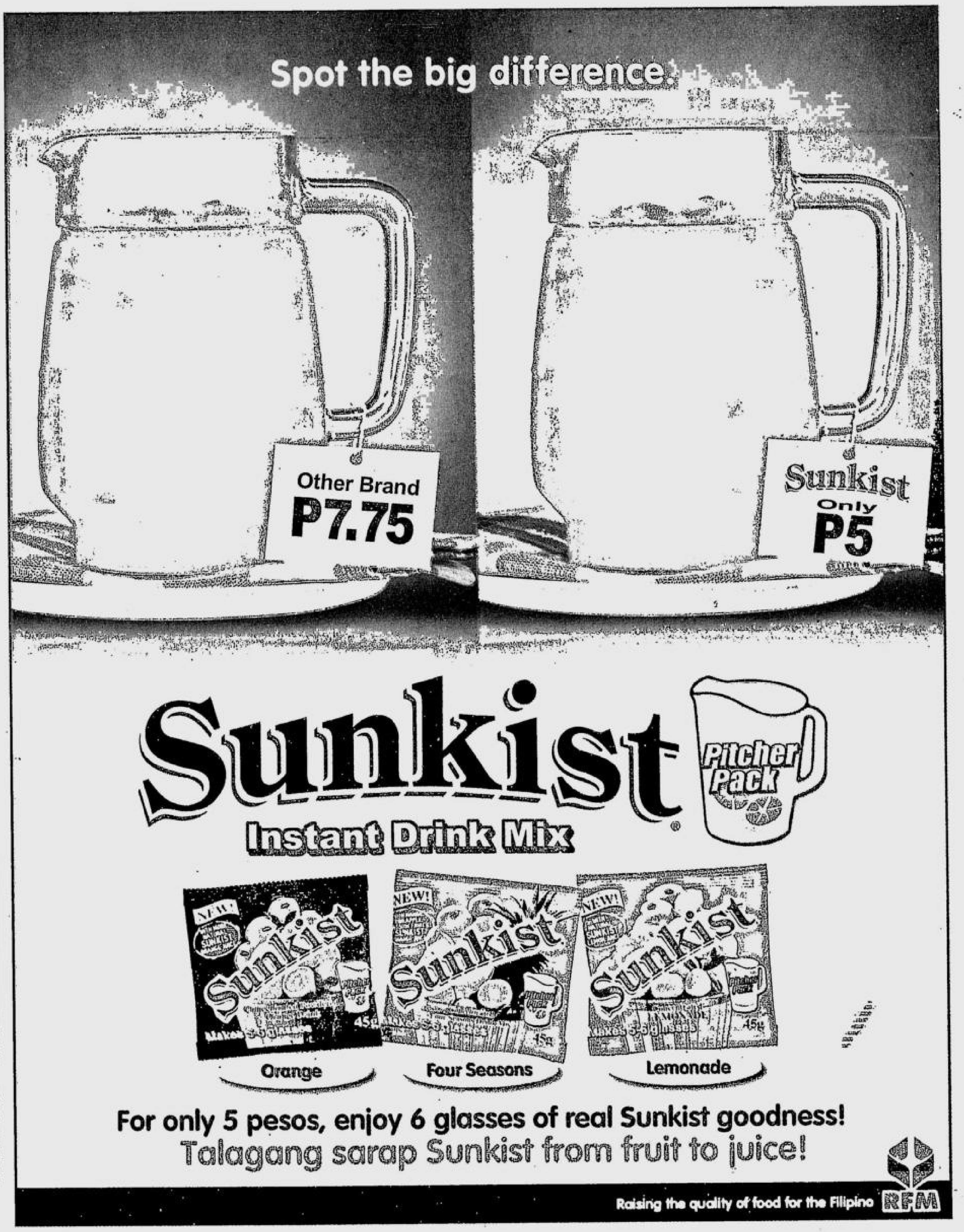
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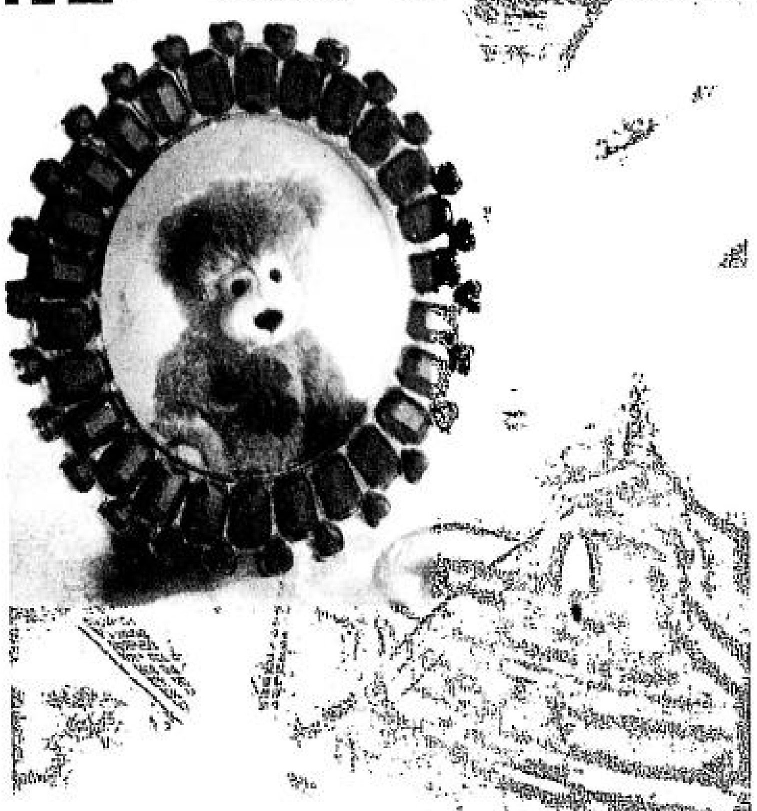
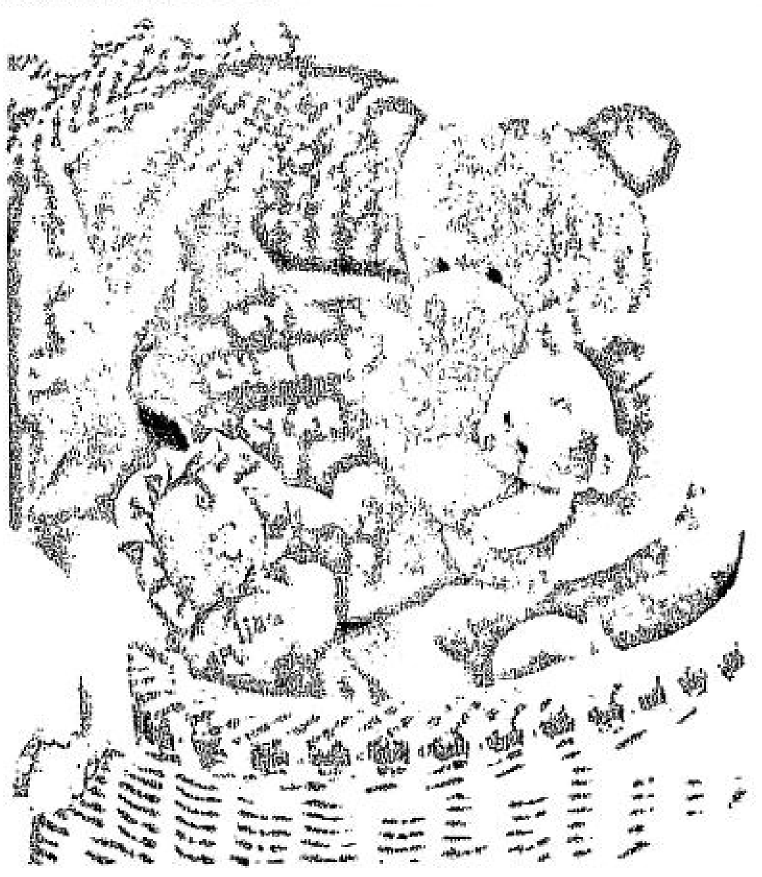
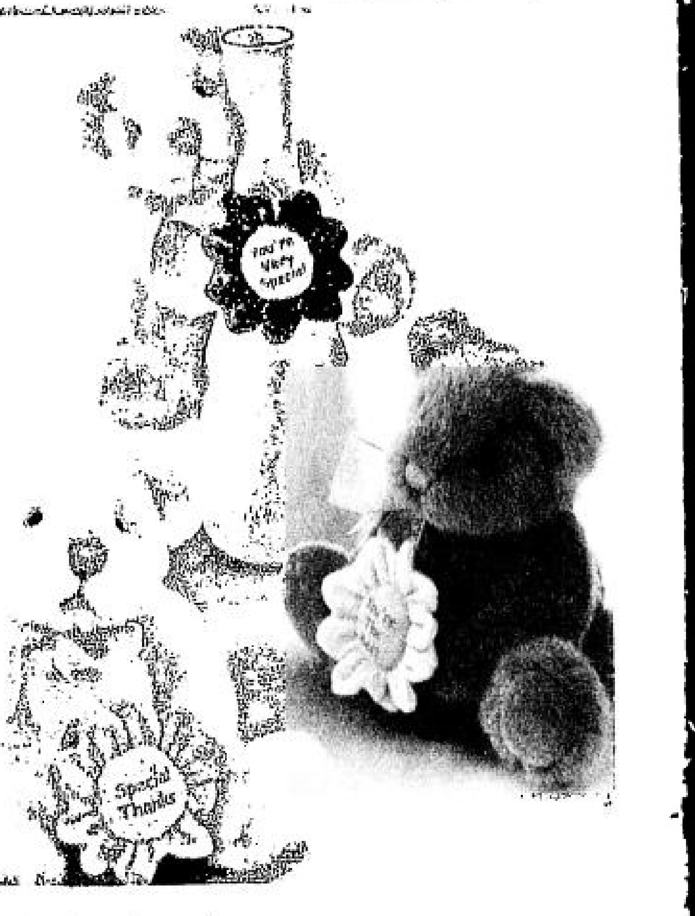


GIFT RUSH. Available at Gift Gate are Gemsstone frame and candle...



... THE CUDDLIEST musical bears...



... NEWLY arrived vase hugger bears

Making someone happy

From page H1

into town recently to be with her dad who had to undergo heart surgery at the Asian Hospital a day after his 78th birthday. As with all the trips that she took with Russ, Angelica made it a point to visit with Virgie S. Ramos, owner of Gift Gate and, without a doubt, holder of a Ph.D in gift-giving. Berrie recalled Ramos was their first distributor to have a free-standing Russ store and to adopt the Russ store-within-a-store concept.

Trust Angelica Berrie, newly appointed CEO of Russ Berrie and Company, to give you a rundown on the different Russ products available at Gift Gate.

She said the report from the Atlanta Gift Show, the biggest in the United States, was that the Angel Cheeks were the hottest gift items. Russ' angels, naughty and nice like Charlie's, are prominently displayed at Gift Gate perhaps because they're Ramos' favorites. Holding miniscule cakes, flowers, candy jars, etc., they are not scandalously irreverent. Just a touch of whimsy as they sit on their backsides, with "cheeks" peeking from underneath their heavenly garb.

"That's why they're called Angel Cheeks," pointed out Angelica. Whether the angels will overtake the sales from the '90s big hit Russ Troll remains to be seen, however.

PLUSH dogs are bestsellers all over the world, including the Philippines

Best sellers

In the meantime, contrary to the popular notion that consumers are bullish on teddy bears, dogs continue to be Russ' best sellers. Although the company has created all kinds of plush pets known as Softies, including purse pets, some of which are even scented, the puppies have been taking the vote as the most lovable of the lot.

Gift Gate carries even the plush toy Sparkle, a Russ representation of the late comedian Gilda Radner's Yorkshire Terrier. Every Sparkle sold by Russ in part benefits Gilda's Club Worldwide, a free cancer support center for cancer patients and their families and Angelica's pet charity.

Not to be outdone, the bears Ruby and Rufus, billed as the bears with diabetes, benefit Mr. Berrie's Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Although most businesses have been complaining of a slump since 9/11, Russ, according to Angelica, has been enjoying brisk sales. You only have to look at photos in the media of people leaving teddy bears and other plush toys at the Twin Towers shrines in New York to believe her.

The birth rate also went up after 9/11, said Berrie. Luckily, Russ has a whole collection built around babies—baby's first-year calendars, baby frames and the like.

For girls eight to 12 years old, what Berrie called "the tween market," Russ has the Girl Powrrr collection. At Gift Gate, there are dolls, piggy banks, picture frames, photo albums, pens, pillows and other accessories, all glitzed up with fluorescent fabrics and sequins for the Britney Spears wanna-bes. "Their mothers cannot say no to them," quipped Berrie.

Indeed, other than Russ, there is no gift company in the world that offers a range that includes frames, baby products, plush toys, magnets, accessories and home decor. The company's competitors either deal only in candles or sell only plush toys.

"We're up there but we want to be even better! There's no reason we can't be a brand like Disney," said Berrie. Of course, Disney started with film and expanded into television, books, toys and gifts. Russ can reverse the process and go from gifts to everything else that can make someone happy.

TOP-CALIBER PARTNERS. Gift Gate President Virgie Ramos, Russ' sole distributor in RP, and Russ Berrie and Company CEO Angelica Berrie hold Buffie Baby Bear in blue and pink.

Girl Powrrr

GO GIRL! Russ Bobble-Chics photo frame at Gift Gate

I Love MY Mommy
I Love my Grandma
I Love You

GIRL Powrrr collection, above, and candle jars with toppers, left.

GEORGE Gaw of Uni-Orient, CX assistant sales manager Marjorie Custodio, Albert Fu of Pan Pacific Travel, Rene Austria of Expertrans Forwarding, Jane Cuyegkeng of Pioneer Tours and Rally Austria of Expertrans Forwarding

THE CATHAY Pacific team led by country manager Adrian Harley

Cathay Pacific honors top travel and cargo agents

CATHAY Pacific recently rolled out the red carpet for its top travel and cargo agents during an awards party dubbed as "Awards Night with CX Stars."

Guests were welcomed by the airline's country manager Adrian Harley at Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the airline's top supporters for the past year. Accepting their awards were George Gaw of Uni-Orient, Albert Fu of Pan Pacific Travel, Jane Cuyegkeng of Pioneer Tours, Cindy Villabona of BTI Marsman, Raymond Tee of Horizon Travel, Alice San Juan of Rajah Tours, Zenaida Chua of Fortune Travel, Gerry de Guzman of Adventure International, Marilu Ngo of Sierra Tours, Lucille Chabeldin of Thomas Cook (Phil.), Noboru Kobayashi of Nippon Express, Perry Villanueva of Freight Options, Adjie Castro of DHL Worldwide Express, Rally Austria of Expertrans Forwarding, and last but not the least, Bong de los Santos of Bax Global.

CX sales executive Myrna Tee, Sharleen Chua and Zenaida Chua of Fortune Travel

RICHIE Hormillo of Bax Global, Bong de los Santos of Bax Global and Sharon Orlina of CX

JAN Charmaine Te, Susanna Lie and Mario Gozun

GERRY de Guzman of Adventure Int'l.

CX cargo sales executive Lita Zabala

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Cielo E. Paculaba	9 de Pebrero St., Mandaluyong City

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Imelda Velasco Rinon	Pili, Camarines Sur
Remedios A. Torres	Malolos, Bulacan
Antonile M. Magtolo	Gapan, Nueva Ecija
Noemi N. Punzalan	Bacoor, Cavite
Victoria Bugtong	La Trinidad, Benguet
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Leticia Da Salla	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

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Edmund C. Lopez	Shen Zhen Mami House Dynasty, Tacloban City
Loida Salmorin	Park Maglipayon Brgy. 35, Bacolod City
Angelo Gallo	Gatuslao St., Bacolod City.
Hope E.Taton	Tangub, Bacolod City
Imelda Soriano	Bgry. Felisa, Bacolod City
Nilacor Y. Flores	Kabankalan St., Negros Occidental
Jimmy Dalisay	Lopez Jaena St., Bacolod City

MINDANAO

Judith Uy	Bankerohan, Davao City
Ryan Ray Jose	Kaputian Island, Garden City of Samal
Cristina Edem	Sagod Apopong, Gen. Santos City
Erlinda Rangas	Gensanville Subd., Gen. Santos City
Ma. Theresa Kian	Don Rufino Alonzo St. Cotabato City
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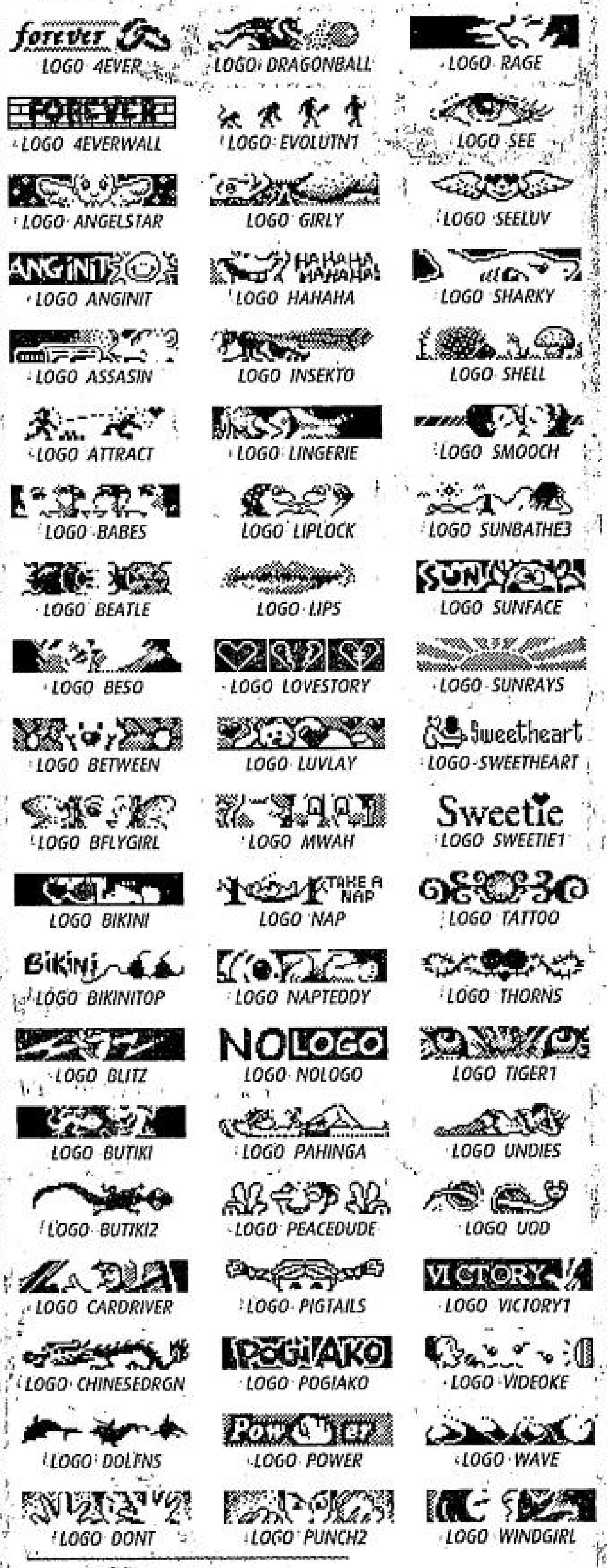

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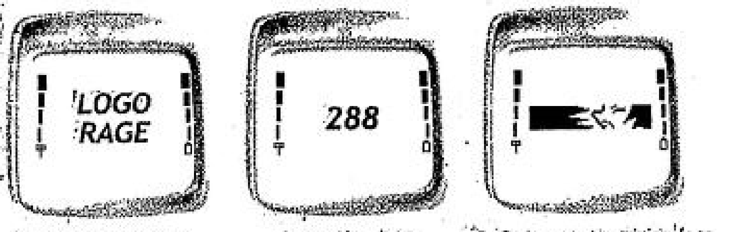

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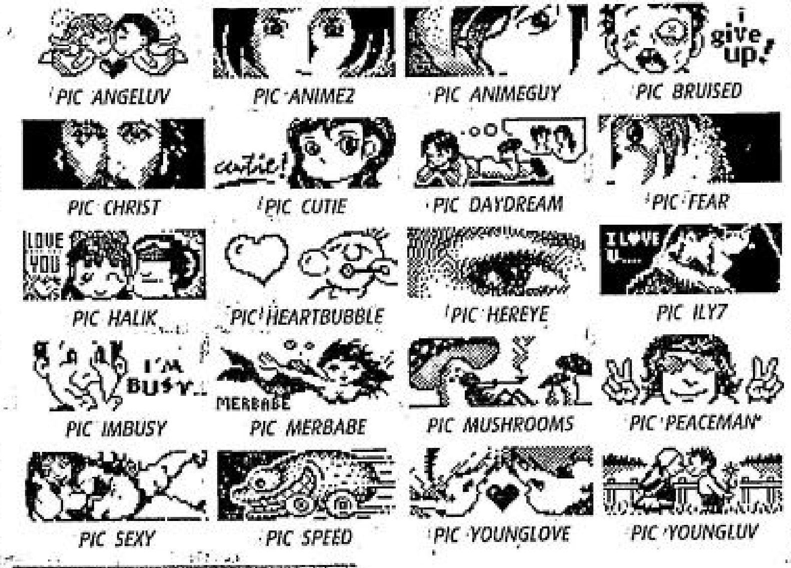
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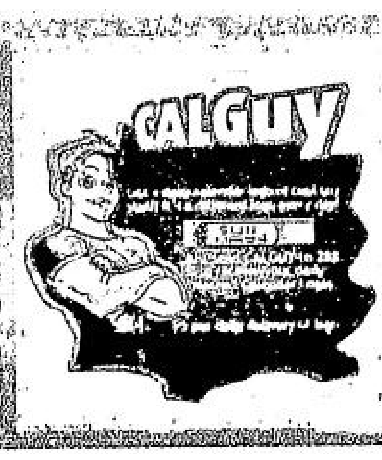

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Soak Up The Sun
Sheryl Crow
TONE SOAKUP

Sway
Bic Runga
TONE SWAY

Kiss That Girl
Sheryl Crow
TONE KISSTHAT

Stillness Of Heart
Lenny Kravitz
TONE STILLNESS

Big Yellow Taxi
Counting Crows
TONE BIGYELLOW

Angels Or Devils
Dishwala
TONE ANGELSOR

Like A Stone
Audioslave
TONE LYKSTONE

Game Of Love
Santana
TONE GAMEOF

Don't Dream It's Over
Sixpence None The Richer
TONE DONTDRM

Don't Know Why
Norah Jones
TONE DNTKNWY

Unwell
Matchbox 20
TONE UNWELL

Somewhere In The Middle
Dishwala
TONE MIDDLE

Damage
TLC
TONE DAMAGE

Why Georgia
John Mayer
TONE YGEORGIA

Dilemma
Nelly
TONE DILEMMA

The Real Slim Shady
Eminem
TONE SLIMSHADY

Bakit Papa
Sex Bomb
TONE BAKITPAPA

King And Queen Of Hearts
David Pomeranz
TONE KINGNQUEEN

Someday We'll Know
Mandy Moore
TONE WILKNOW

Forevermore
Side A Band
TONE 4EVERMORE

This I Promise You
N'Sync
TONE DISIPROMISE

Spiderman
Movie Theme
TONE SPIDERMAN

Ain't It Funny
Jennifer Lopez
TONE AINTITFUN

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Sound Alike
TONE BUTTERCUP

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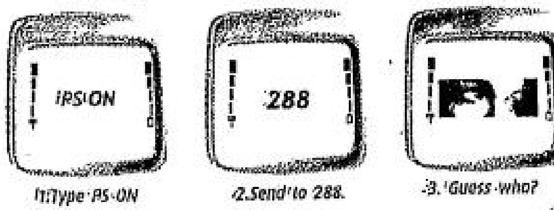

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2. Send to 288.
3. Guess who?

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Scape Scape

Philippine reef makes a splash in jazzy Chicago

By Tessa Prieto Valdes

AFTER all that jazz about "Chicago," I found myself right in the heart of the city, not to go on stage but to explore the newest exhibit at the John G. Shedd Aquarium, the world's oldest and largest public aquarium. The Shedd has just added a new exhibit, "Wild Reef," and the addition doubles the floor space of the aquarium.

"Wild Reef" will make you proud of the Philippines. The addition took eight years to plan and build, added a total of 1 million individual corals and fish and 540 kinds of species, doubling the number at Shedd's collections.

Let me just add a few more illuminating stats—direct from their brochure—that will "Shedd" light on the huge, new exhibit: 35 sharks in a 400,000 gallons in tank and 17.5 tons of real Philippine sand to create a natural seabed.

"Wild Reef" beautifully recreates Apo Island just off Negros Oriental. The exhibit uncovers the animals, biodiversity and cultural history behind this unparalleled marine ecosystem.

Apparently some years back, the residents of Apo were much like the fishermen around other islands in our country—overfishing from their reef and using dynamite and cyanide, without regard for or knowledge of conservation.

Enter Silliman University, which convinced the islanders to preserve just a fourth of the reef under the theory that the fourth would eventually resuscitate and sustain the reef. And lo and behold, the theory proved true. Apo Island today is a showcase of conservation.

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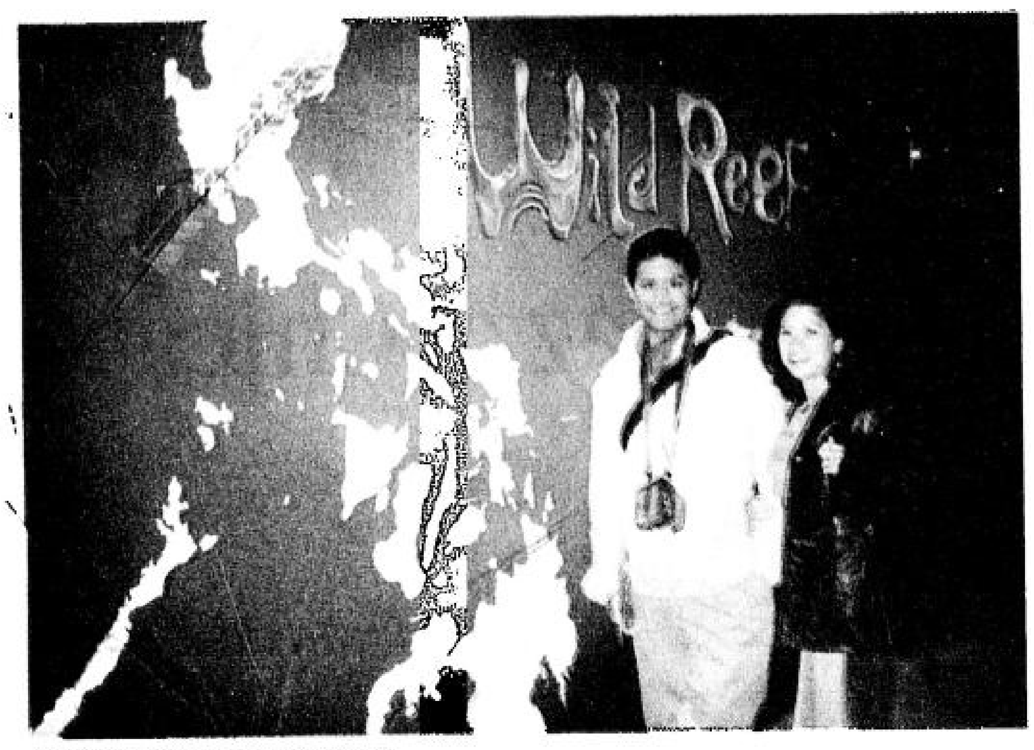


DOESN'T that map look familiar?

BRYAN poses beside an alien-sized coral polyp.

SIMULATED coral makes vi

Philippine reef makes a splash in jazzy Ch

From page I I

The Shedd exhibit is like being hands-on in a Discovery Channel show for a couple of hours. I learned that Philippine coral reefs have the greatest variety of animals—more than any other reef system in the world! This should make the brains of the folks at Tourism start spinning: our reefs support over 2,500 kinds of fish and 600 kinds of coral.

In contrast, the Australian Great Barrier Reef isn't so great. It comes in a poor second with 1,500 fish and 350 coral.

Proud

What made me feel even prouder is when the world's biggest aquarium chooses to showcase our amazing natural treasures. Now only if the world were more like Atlantis—then for sure we would be one of the richer countries!

Our trip to the Shedd was courtesy of **Toti** and **Isabel Juan**, alumni of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, the #1 business school in the US as ranked by Businessweek magazine.

The Juan's are like foster parents to all the incoming Pinoy students at the B-school—even from the time my husband **Dennis** was there in the '80s.

Over dinner, I found out that they once appointed Dennis to be their house-sitter while they were on a business trip and during that time the cops had to come over once! (I guess he was once a wild one.)

Toti Juan is the chairman of the Philippine Reef Gala Committee, which is hosting a dinner at the Shedd to raise money for Apo Island and other conservation projects in the country.

The next day, Dennis, our son **Bryan** and I had an early breakfast with **Steve Adolph**, Dennis' former officemate at the NutraSweet Company. Steve is also a diver and we all drove over to the Shedd with the courtesy tickets provided by the Juan's.

Thanks to our members' passes, we were able to bypass the line that had started to build up at the Shedd's entrance.

Because there was not much space for land expansion, the aquarium built the exhibit underground. Taking the elevator down 25 ft. (the bottom of the pavilion is the same level as the surface of Lake Michigan), we immediately walk through a tunnel-like shoreline surf presentation.

As an avid diver, I noticed the variety of coral and fish—many of them quite young, as could be seen from their size.

As we walked farther into the coral room, a "Star Trek"-proportioned, outer space wild, acrylic giant coral greets us. This display explained how corals reproduce.

Since they don't move, the corals spit out eggs and sperm into the ocean for them to find each other. Well, talk about no foreplay at all.

From there, we proceeded to the Dive the Reef habitat. Here, the most colorful fishes of the whole aquarium were found. Kids can get more information about the species by touching the freestanding, flat monitors to magnify the drawings, etc. What a nice field trip this would be, and indeed, most of the visitors there were schoolchildren.

I was reminded of the Kinder Zoo in Manila, which is such a big improvement from her pathetic neighbor.

But the main attraction is the shark habitat. Not yet fully grown, most of the sharks are relatively small. The varieties include the grey reef, nurse, white tip, blacktip, zebra, wobbegong and sandbar sharks.

The general notion that sharks are large, fast-swimming, elegant savage predators is true of some species, but only of a minority. It is more intriguing to note that all sharks have an exceptional sense of smell. Their nostrils are used only for smelling, not for breathing.

The part of a shark's brain that deals with smelling is twice as large as the rest, proof of the importance of smell. Sharks can detect one part of blood in a million parts of water—about 1 drop of blood in 25 gallons of water! Thank God for Band-aid!

The Mangroves and the Fishing Village display are at the rear portion of the exhibit. Since the Shedd is also into the conservation of the aquatic life and environments, they hooked up with biologists from Silliman University to support their efforts to make Apo Island a community-managed marine reserve. Hopefully, there will be no more cyanide and dynamite fishing.

Now the only things we need to get rid of are the sea pirates and the Abu Sayyaf to bring in the tourist divers. Patience is truly a virtue.

> The world's biggest aquarium pays tribute to the rich diversity of Philippine reefs with an exhibit that should give tourism officials another reason to say 'Wow'

Fascinated

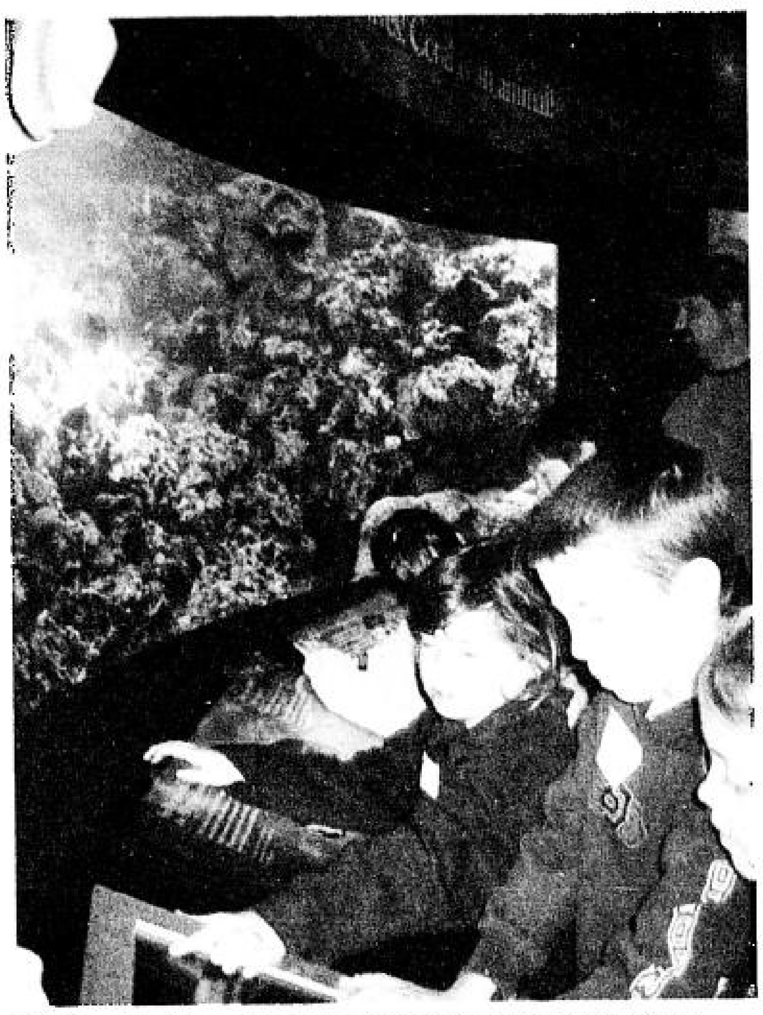
I have always been fascinated with the kinds of creatures of the deep blue ever since I started diving more than 10 years ago. They are very colorful and interesting, possessing strange traits uniquely their own. I often like to do a matching game, fish to friend and get a good laugh.

I would be a clown fish living within the tentacles of a sea anemone. In turn, Dennis would be the anemone! The anemone host provides protection to the clown fish and the fish protects the anemone from would-be predators (primarily other fish which are chased away by the territorial behavior of the clown fish).

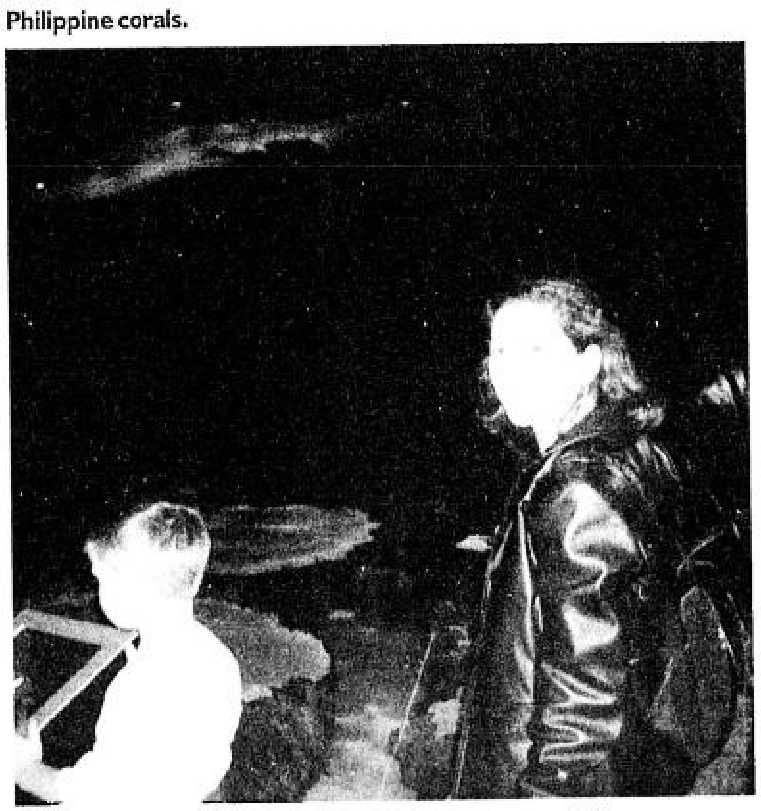
Additionally the clown fish apparently acts as anemone cleaners. But, I think I just possess the territorial behavior and not the cleaning skills.

Here's one animal to think about. Seahorses! These fish are merely pipefishes with their heads at right angles to the body, a prehensile tail and a dorsal fin adapted for locomotion, exhibit the ultimate in egg protection. The female has an ovipositor by which the eggs are placed in the male's pouch until the pouch is full. Apparently this simple act is not always done without mishap. At hatching time, the male helps the young to escape by rubbing his abdomen against the rock, in others there are vigorous muscular spasms which may expel the young with considerable velocity. After "birth" the male flushes out his brood sac by expansion and contraction to expel egg remains and general debris to prepare for the next breeding season. I can't even begin to comment on that method. It is too perfect to be true.

Tunas are the Formula 1 cars of the ocean. They are all muscle and have the ability to keep warm by retaining metabolic heat via a countercurrent heat-exchange system that operates in their



KIDS use the interactive touch screens to learn more about the Philippine corals.



THIS small white-tip shark is harmless to man, especially when there's 5 inches of acrylic separating us.

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cyclopedia of Aquatic Life
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E-mail the author at se
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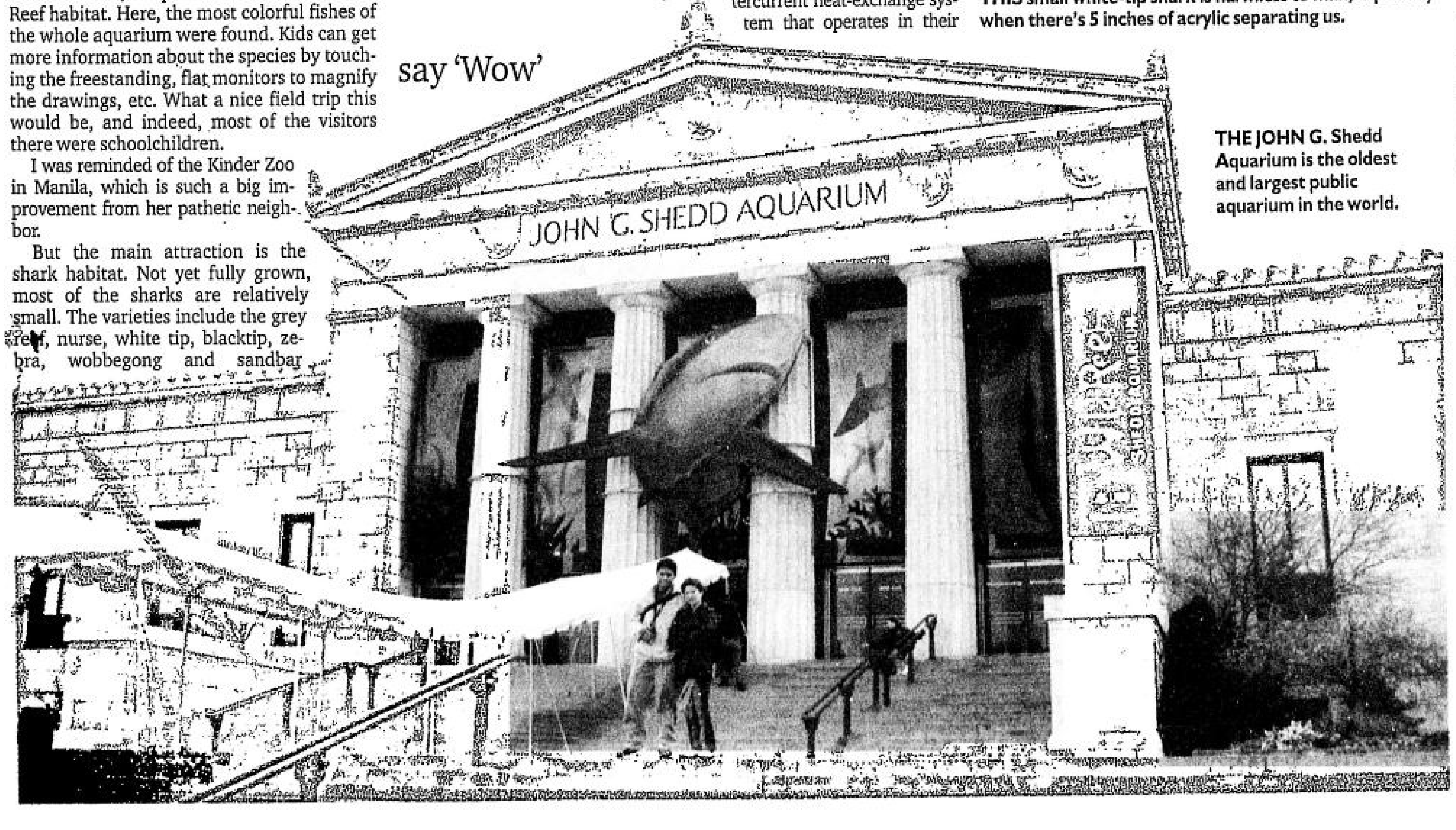

THE JOHN G. Shedd Aquarium is the oldest and largest public aquarium in the world.

WELCOME
MANAGING OU
LETS US EARN
WHILE PRESER
FOR THE FU

PART of the exhibit recreates the Apo Is
to the *nipa* roofs and kerosene lamps.

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sitors feel they are underwater.

THE ENTRANCE to the Wild Reef exhibit makes us Pinoys feel right at home.

TOTI Juan, with his wife Isabel, is the chairman of the Philippine Reef Gala Night at the Shedd.

A QUICK breakfast for Tessa, Steve Adolph, Dennis and Bryan before their visit to the Shedd.

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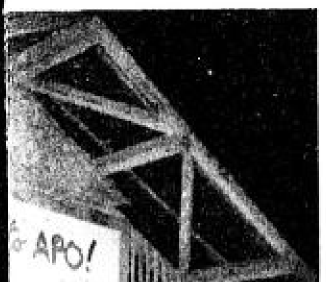

and community, right down

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It's a good thing kids can't choose their mommies!
It's a good thing kids can't choose their mommies!
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Rex Navarrette headlines CWC fundraiser

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

THE GATES of the Zobel residence in Forbes Park were again thrown open for the annual Catholic Women's Club tea for the benefit of the Elsie Gaches Foundation. A dozen tables were set up under the trees in a tropical setting that provided the backdrop for the performance of San Francisco-based comedian **Rex Navarrette.**

Everyone enjoyed **Gaita Fores'** fusion *merienda*, which was donated. So all ticket sales represented clean profit for the foundation. **Tessie Luz** emceed, which was not unusual, but the special surprise was British Ambassador **Paul Dimond** gamely co-emceeing the event.

Anita Magsaysay-Ho, who cannot be honored officially for her contributions and generosity to local causes because of her citizenship, donated a sketch of a rural family that was auctioned off. Prints have been made. If you can't have an original, you can still have a numbered Magsaysay-Ho print.

***

It's a lovely building, but oh, wow, too hot during the summer. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it could be air-conditioned?

Juan Arellano's neo-classical Post Office building in Liwasang Bonifacio was the setting for the celebration of Philippines-Mexico Week hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs (represented by Ambassador **Delia Albert**) and the Mexican embassy. Commemorative stamps featuring Our Lady of Guadalupe and Quiapo's Black Nazarene (that were brought here on a galleon) were offered for sale.

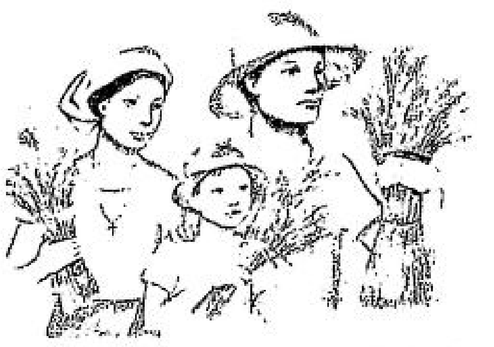
Despite the traffic and the heat, the celebration was well attended by members of the diplomatic corps, including Singapore's new Ambassador **Lim Kheng Hua.** The others are Australia (H.E. **Ruth Pearce**), Brunei (H.E. **Munah Dato Elias**), Chile (H.E. **Carmen Ly-**

REX/J4

(SEATED) Doña Bea Zobel, Tessie Luz, (standing) Nenuca Blardony, CWC president Alice Briones, Letty Syquia and Rex Navarrette

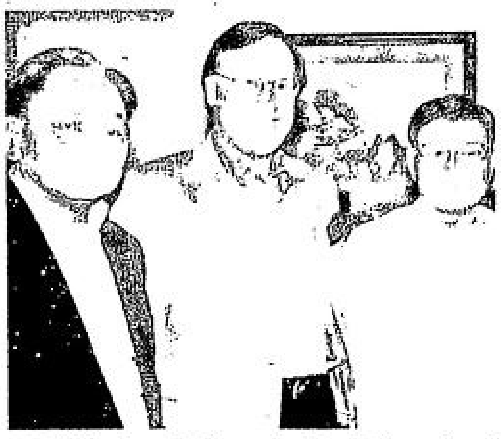
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA AND BETOY JOHNSON

His humor may be a tad irrelevant but it will do for a Catholic charity



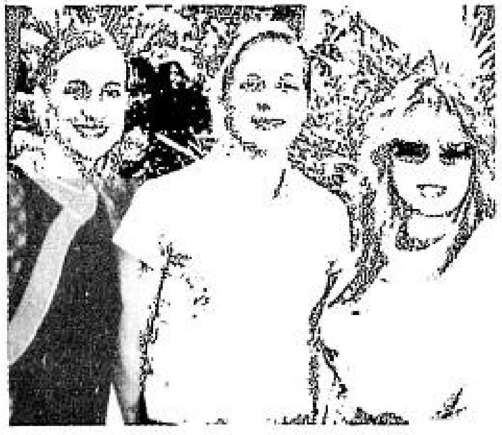
ANITA Magsaysay-Ho donation, the drawing "The Filipino Family"

JAIME and Bea Zobel de Ayala

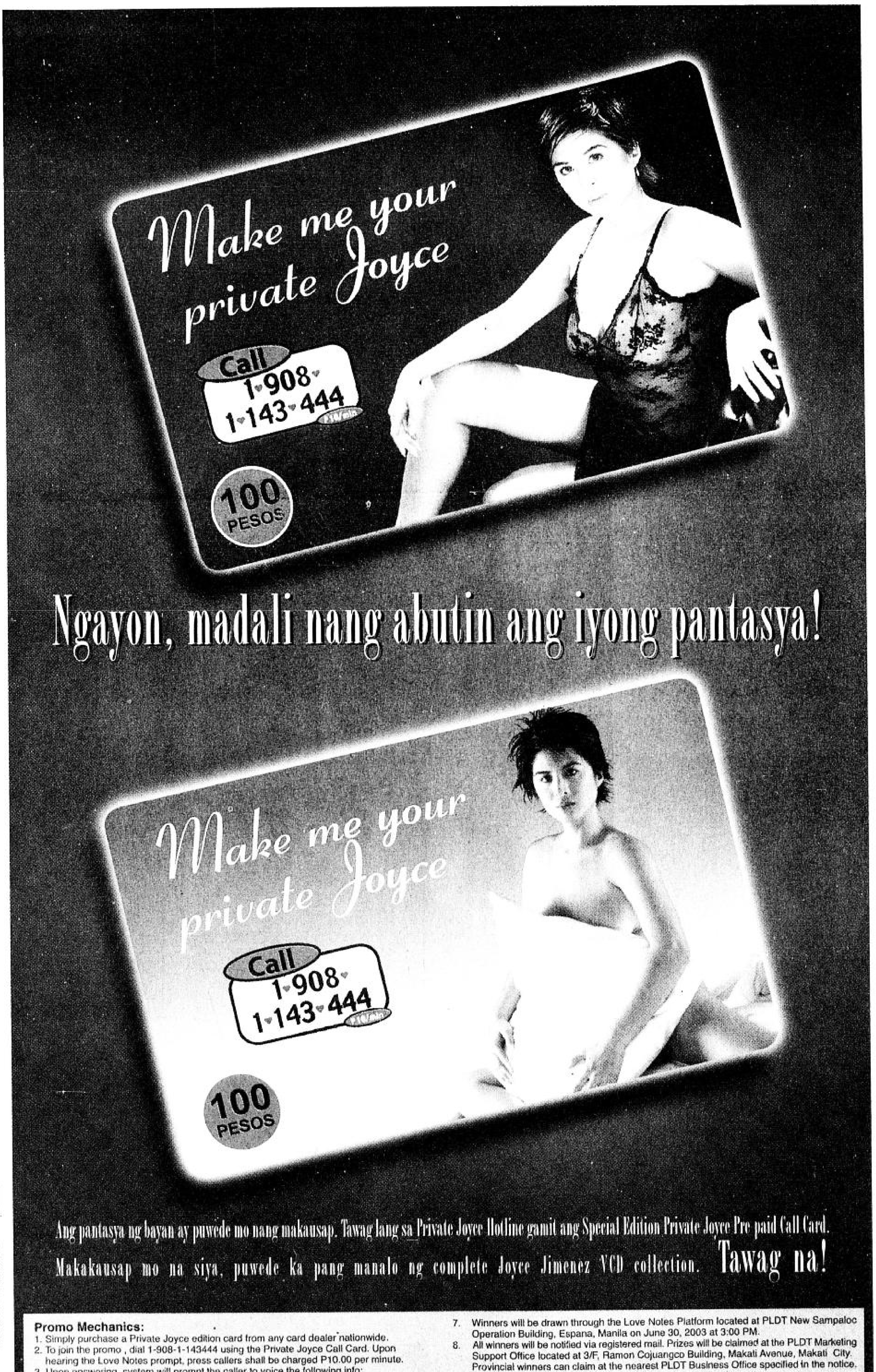


TONY Rufino, Ambassador Paul Dimond and Sonny Ong

CLARA Colesanti and Carolyn Dimond



SOPHIA Zobel, Severine Mialhe and Juni Peña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4. Private Joyce cardholder will have a chance to be one of the one hundred (100) winners of the Private Joyce VCD collection worth one hundred eighty pesos (P180.00).
5. A total of 100 winners will be determined for the whole promo.
6. Promo duration is from May 4, (12:01 AM) to June 15 (12:00 MN), 2003.
7. Winners will be drawn through the Love Notes Platform located at PLDT New Sampaloc Operation Building, Espana, Manila on June 30, 2003 at 3:00 PM.
8. All winners will be notified via registered mail. Prizes will be claimed at the PLDT Marketing Support Office located at 3/F, Ramon Cojuangco Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Provincial winners can claim at the nearest PLDT Business Office specified in the notice. Deadline of claiming will be within sixty days from notification.
9. All winners should present a valid ID and the Private Joyce Call Card they used for the call to claim their prize.
10. A participant can win more than once.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit 1153, Series of 2003.

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CHECKING out the go-karts with his siblings and friends at Toy Kingdom.

WITH MILLIE Dizon of SM, which sponsored Tanggol's shopping spree at Toy Kingdom

PAYING with play money at Toy Kingdom.

GIFT distribution at Pizza Hut

Tanggol's wish has been granted

The boy with the rare form of cancer gets his wish—a party for poor kids like him

Text by Amor and Mina Herrera
Contributors
Photos by Betoy Johnson

WHEN our Make-A-Wish team first learned of Tanggol Manalili's wish to help other children in his Las Piñas community, we thought "Wow, what a great wish!"

Asked why he wanted to help the other children in his community, Tanggol's simple reply was "*Kasi mahirap lang po sila.*" He added that he had been praying every day for a way to help the children.

Tanggol is stricken with acute myelogenous leukemia, and it is heartwarming that someone as sick as he can be so selfless in seeking to alleviate the condition of other children. Who can refuse his wish?

To fulfill Tanggol's wish, our Wish team held a party on April 27, where Tanggol could personally distribute assorted grocery items, school supplies and toys to over 60 children. We chose Pizza Hut because it was Tanggol's favorite place.

On April 27, before the party, we heard Mass and brought Tanggol and his family to SM Southmall where they were warmly welcomed by Storyland's mascots.

After lunch, it was time for shopping at Toy Kingdom, which had generously donated Tanggol's shopping budget. Tanggol could barely contain his excitement when he was given a shopping cart at the entrance.

Accompanied by his equally thrilled siblings, he rushed to look for the perfect toy for each child on his list. After confidently buying toys for the boys, he turned to his sisters for advice in buying gifts for the girls.

Budding mathematician

A budding mathematician, Tanggol carefully kept within his budget, stopping every now and then to consult his siblings and the Make-A-Wish volunteers on the prices of certain gifts.

After making sure that he had a toy for everyone, Tanggol, using play money, proudly paid for the gifts at the cashier.

While waiting for the toys to be wrapped, he and his family were treated to free rides back at Storyland.

After merrily slamming one another in the bump cars, he and his siblings climbed into the carousel. They ended their Storyland adventure, benevolently sponsored by SM Inc., with a heart-stopping roller-coaster ride.

Then it was off to Pizza Hut for "Tanggol's party." The kids enthusiastically took part in relay games and the *pabitin*.

After a yummy *merienda* donated by Pizza Hut, it was time for the distribution of gift packs containing grocery items and school supplies donated by Landmark, RFM, Foodsphere Inc., Shopwise and Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar.

Tanggol, assisted by Villar, Pizza Pooch and Make-A-Wish volunteers, happily gave away toys, Pizza Hut loot bags, *bayong* brimming with assorted goodies and school supplies.

Much to Tanggol's surprise, he received two Lego sets donated by Virgie Ramos of Gift Gate. He was also presented a Gameboy from Las Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar.

At the end of the day, Tanggol's parents said that they could never thank us enough for granting his wish. Yet for us, the smiles on everyone's faces, the bubbly excitement of the children as they examined their packages, the high fives we made with Tanggol, and the Happy Easter cards we received from him and his siblings, were more than enough.

Truly, a lifetime is measured not by time but by memories and we, along with the rest of our Wish team—Wins Chua, Ave Ong, Vino Unson and Jason Ong—can't wait for another chance to share in the power of a wish.

Tanggol's parents, Hector and Bettina Manalili, may be reached at 872-5590. Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Philippines can be contacted at 817-7387.

ENJOYING the carousel at Storyland

TRYING out a ball

BIG SPENDER FOR A DAY. Tanggol Manalili enjoys a pause at Storyland with its mascot and staff and Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, Probe Team's Love Añover and Make-A-Wish Foundation volunteers.

Make your own Mother's Day jigsaw puzzle

BLOPENS suggests a unique way of honoring mothers through a self-made jigsaw puzzle.

For this project, you will need the following materials: Blopens, black marker, cardboard, cutter, shoe box, white glue and scissors.

Here are few easy steps:

1. Using Blopens air art materials, draw your chosen image on the blank white side of the cardboard. Make sure it's clear enough to be understood when it's strewn apart. Try to outline your masterpieces using a thin black marker.

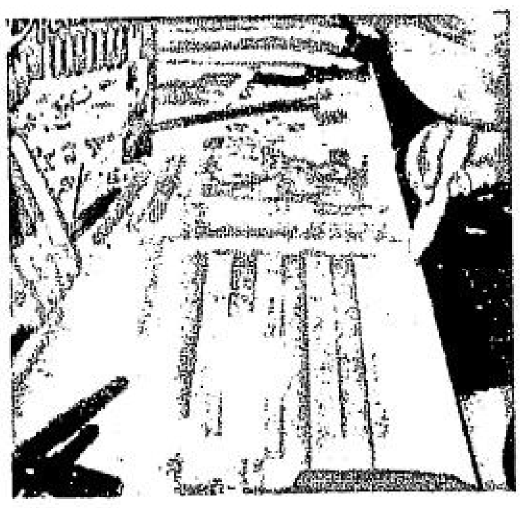
2. Decide what kind of backing you want for your puzzle. You can use a heavy cardboard backing, foam or plastic corrugated board. If you choose to use foam, you will need a large, flat sheet of the material.

3. Next, you will need to mount the artwork onto the backing. You can use white glue, although it may take a little more time to dry before you can move on to the next step. It is therefore advisable to start 2-3 days before mom's day comes so you can have a flexible work time.

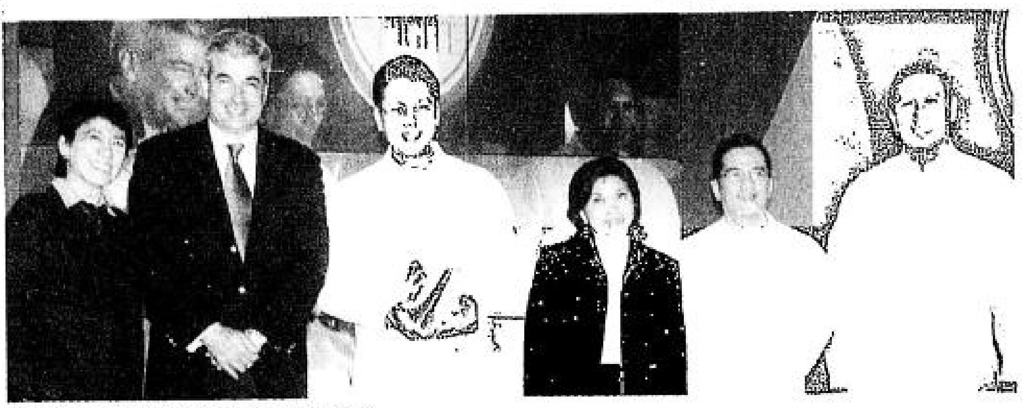
4. You will need to cut the puzzle apart into irregularly shaped pieces using a cutter.

5. Finally, after you have cut apart the entire picture, put the puzzle together to make sure that all of the pieces fit together properly.

Blopens are available at selected National Bookstore outlets nationwide



happy
mother's
day

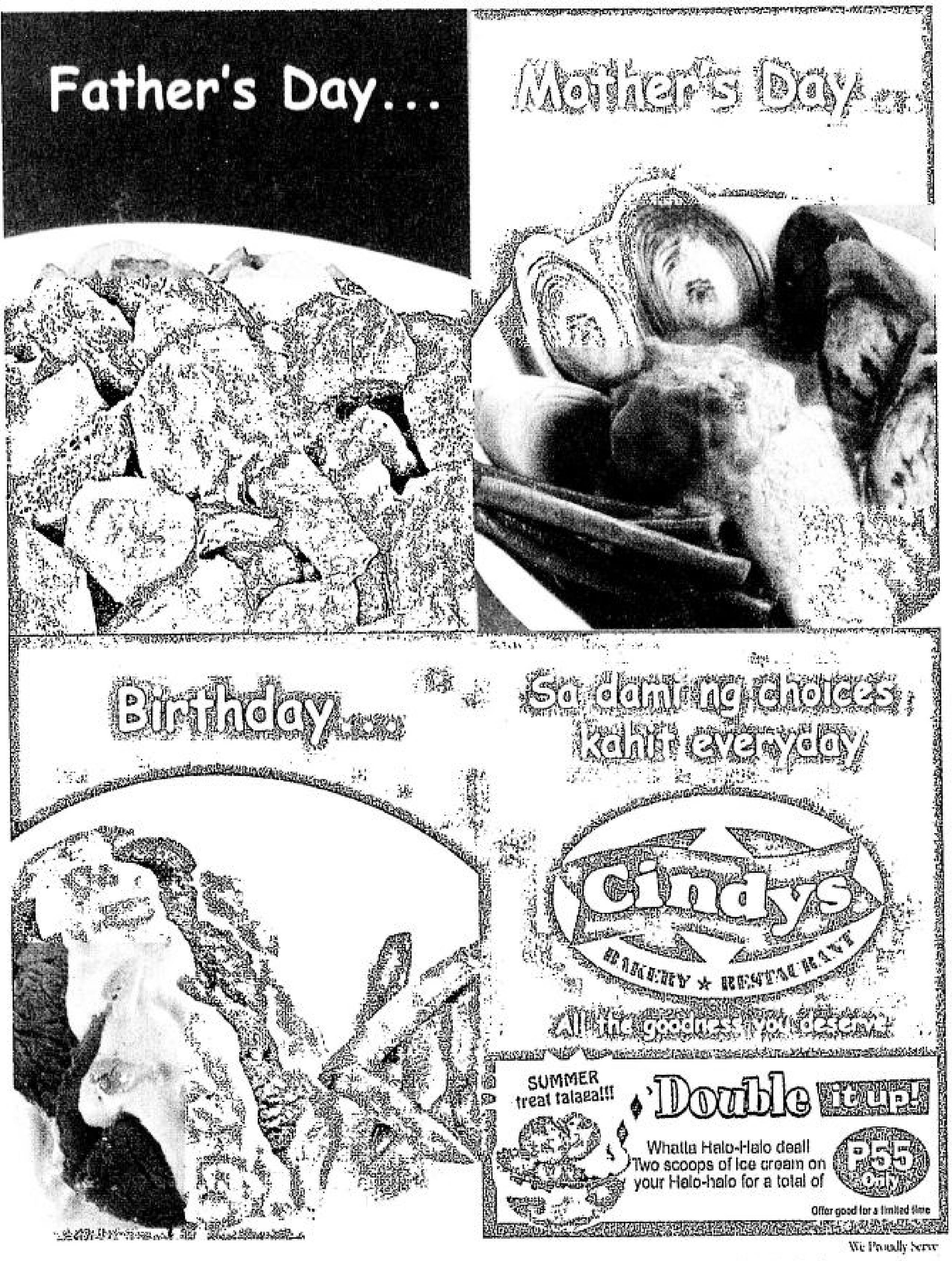


AWARD-WINNING STORE

Olympic World has been named Grand Store of the Year in the annual Ayala Malls Merchant Awards held recently at the Glorietta Activity Center.

The award is given to the store/company that upholds the highest standards of business management and store operations, shows commitment to retail innovation and contributes to building sales and image.

Present at the awarding were Mirriam Katigbak, senior vice president and commercial centers group head, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI); Fernando Zobel, chair, ALI; Jay Gervasio, president and CEO, Olympic Village Group of Companies; Marissa Tecson, retail operations manager, Olympic Village; Obet Abesamis, COO, OVGC; and Francisco Licuanan III, president, ALI.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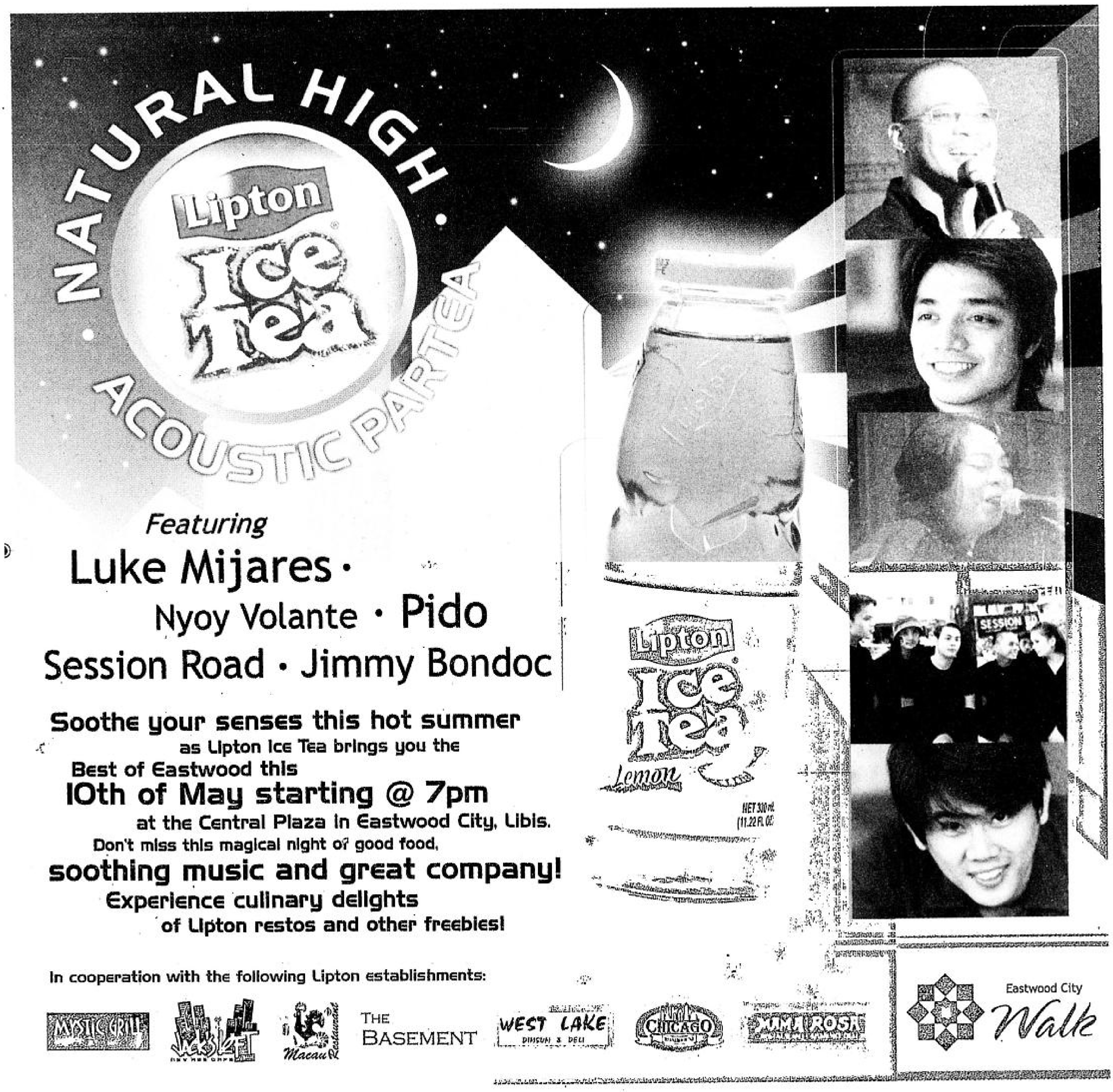
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APRIL 23-3

POSTMASTER General Diomedio Villanueva, Ambassador Delia Albert, Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard and Azab Arras

From page J1

nam), France (H.E. **Renee Veyret**), India (H.E. **Nevrekha Sharma**), Israel (H.E. **Irit Ben Abba**), Thailand (H.E. **Busma Bunnag**), Switzerland (H.E. **Lise Favre**) and Venezuela (H.E. **Milena Ramirez**).

Argentina's and Egypt's new envoys, H.E. **Mario Schuff** and H.E. **Saber Abdel Kader Mansour**, also attended.

***

The Sayaw Foundation held a concert at the home of Dr. **Luciano** and **Helen Ong** to show its appreciation for the continued support for its projects by benefactors and friends. Featured artists were **Marvin Gayramon** (baritone) and **Jonathan Arevalo** (pianist), both winners in the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya) winners. Sayaw is at present conducting ballet lessons for 36 scholars at Highway Hills Elementary in Mandaluyong.

PITOY Moreno, Nena Casimiro, Fortune Ledesma, Clara Colesanti, Anton San Diego and Vicky Zubiri

AMBASSADOR Enrique Hubbard, Egyptian Ambassador Saber Mansour and Malaysian Ambassador Mohamed Taufik

MR. and Ms P. Berenguer with Tourism Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig

MARIANA Hubbard

NEW Zealand Ambassador and Ms Terry Baker

Manaoag Virgin's feast day

THE SUMMER Fiesta 2003 of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Manaoag, which is celebrated every third Wednesday after Easter Sunday, is slated on May 7. Anticipating the feast of the Virgin of Manaoag are traditional novena Masses, which began on April 28 and ends on May 6. Every day there are hourly Masses from 5 a.m. to 12 nn. At 4:30 p.m. Novena prayers and Masses are said.

Several priests from the Dominican Order and the Archdiocese of Pangasinan have been invited to celebrate the Holy Masses for the novena and fiesta day. The Provincial of the Dominican Order, Fr. Ernesto Arceo, OP, will celebrate the last novena Mass of the fiesta.

According to Fr. Patricio Apa, OP, prior and parish priest of Manaoag Convent, this year's fiesta will be capped by the traditional fiesta procession to be preceded by the last fiesta Mass on May 7 at 4:30 p.m. Many images of Rosary saints, all from the Order of Preachers family, will accompany the healing Virgin's image.

In order that devotees and pilgrims who are sick or disabled or advanced in age may join the celebration of the Virgin's fiesta, the May 4 Sunday novena Mass at 8 a.m. will be telecast live from Manaoag over ABC 5.

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Kaya: 2 min. calls = 2 electronic raffle entries; 3 min. calls = 3 electronic raffle entries.
3. Touch Mobile Celle-babad Raffle Promo is from April 21 to June 15, 2003

The more you Celle-babad on your Touch Mobile, baka ang dream house mo, mapasa-iyo!

See flyers for more details.

*Only charged voice calls will be valid for this promo. All calls to 801, 802, 808 and other toll free numbers are not qualified as entries.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Dubbed nightmares

Dubbing foreign films in a native language should have been done years ago if there's any semblance of deep concern for the preservation of the local tongue

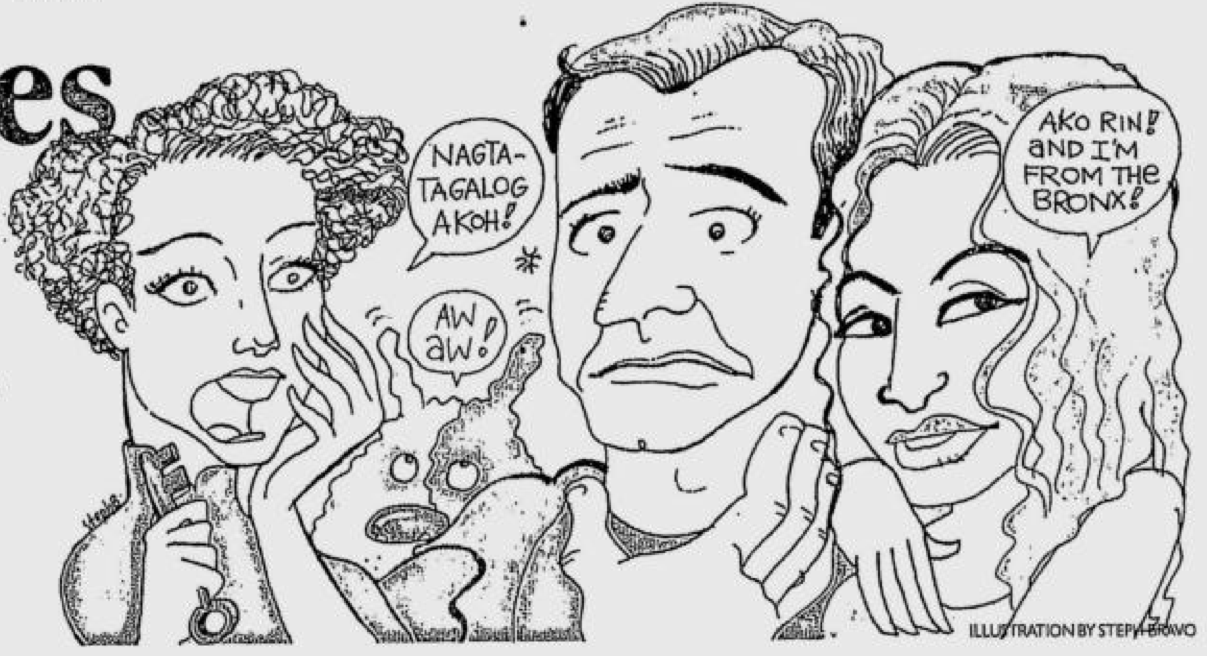
NAGTA-TAGALOG AKOH!
AW aw!
AKO RIN! AND I'M FROM THE BRONX!

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

WAIT a minute. I don't get it.

Our La Bonita Presidentita wants to bring back the glory of the Queen's language into our classrooms because that will make us globally competitive, right? She wants us to go back into "A is for Epol" and return to "See Bantay run" so we can acquire perfect pronunciation when our exponentially growing population work in international call centers based here, or when we export them as domestic help, *di ba*? We can no longer be restricted by the sort of mentality that makes us want to burst into "Bayan Ko" at the slightest provocation... or speak like a cross between the late Bert Marcelo or even the much later Francisco-Balagtas, because that will not go hand in hand with the policies of the WTO, is that not so?

Then who gave this brilliant idea to our television bosses to dub American films and television shows in Pilipino?

Let's get one thing straight. It's not Pilipino, it is Filipino. Repeat: it is not Tagalog (because that is the language of a region), it is not Pilipino, but our national language is Filipino. Check the Constitution. Now as to how and what is the difference between one and the other, assemble a reunion of the Cory Con-Con delegates to find out. But regardless of what you might want to call it, Filipino is the language spoken by Korina Sanchez, Kabayan Noli, Joey de Leon, Cristy Fermin and attempted by the Turvey brothers.

Regression

Just when Filipino filmmakers are pulling their hair trying to find financing to subtitle some of their movies in English, the rest of the country has gone into regression. We are now dubbing everything into the native tongue *para raw maintindihan ng masa*. Oh, I see. Does that mean that for nearly a century the Filipino masses did not understand what they were watching when the dialogue was in English? *Siguro*. Consider for instance that our neighbors dub all their foreign shows in the language of greatest use. Why not do the same for us if only to boost our sense of being *makabayan*?

It all started with Thalia and all those Mexican telenovelas that have increased our appetite for *chorizos* and further encouraged the sale of skin whiteners. Since not even a war in Iraq, a potential outbreak of SARS or another high-profile show-biz scandal can stop us from being soap opera junkies, then why bother to argue? Since we are literally submerged in these Latino imports to the extent that we all want to have girlfriends who look like Jennifer Lopez and have a roll in the hay with either Ricky Martin or Enrique Iglesias, we might as well embrace all these *Kastilaloys* into our fold and claim it to be an aspect of our ever-developing culture.

But to watch all these brunettes, blondes and fiery-eyed Latinos mouth perfect radio-talent Tagalog can be unnerving at first, most especially when the dialogue goes completely out of sync. Since nobody seems to mind, I conclude that this is only a matter of getting used to. If, after all and once upon a time, even a talking dog mouthed Tagalog lines, tell me what falls within the cracks of the incredible?

Multisyllabic names

Moreover, with the influx of the Mexican telenovelas, everyone seems to have grown a penchant for having multisyllabic Basque names. Gone are the Bongs, Tets, Toms or even the Bertings, Indays, Ernings, Josies and Dodos. Suddenly everybody has a name as if he or she can stake their claim to being an heir of the Makati empire: characters in local soaps have monikers like they all ate *churros con chocolate* for breakfast... or even explore the unknown realms of exotica (has anyone ever considered naming their child Andromeda unless the parents are astronomers or Michael Crichton fans?). Then, of course, the major characters must possess not one, but two names, as if to differentiate him or her from the rest of the mortal flock. So do not be shocked if the hero is called by his complete name whether in casual conversation or in fits of fury: "*Kumusta ka na*, Sebastian Agustin?", "*Kain na*, Filomeno Juancho!", "*Mamatay ka*, Fernando Tomas!", "*Yurakin mo ang aking katawan sa bangis ng iyong pagmamahal*, Salustiano Enrique Andres Felipe Jose Maria!" *Ganda, di ba*? It's almost like the real thing except for the fact that the locations are in BF Homes in Quezon City and not some bucolic corner of the South American continent.

This is all so tolerable until they decided to dub American movies in Tagalog for some weird form of democratization. Just because we have accepted the fact that Chicanos can be allowed to speak like they all grew up in Malolos, Bulacan, this does not and cannot mean that we can handle Monica Belucci or Gael Bernal impersonating residents of Pasay City. Now perhaps that was snooty and hoity-toity of me: from the hyper-sensitive, I can be accused of foisting my facility of a second language as trained by the oral English tapes of Bro. Andrew Gonzalez during my grade school years. But, believe me, that is beside the point.

The whole idea of dubbing foreign films in a

DUBBED/K2

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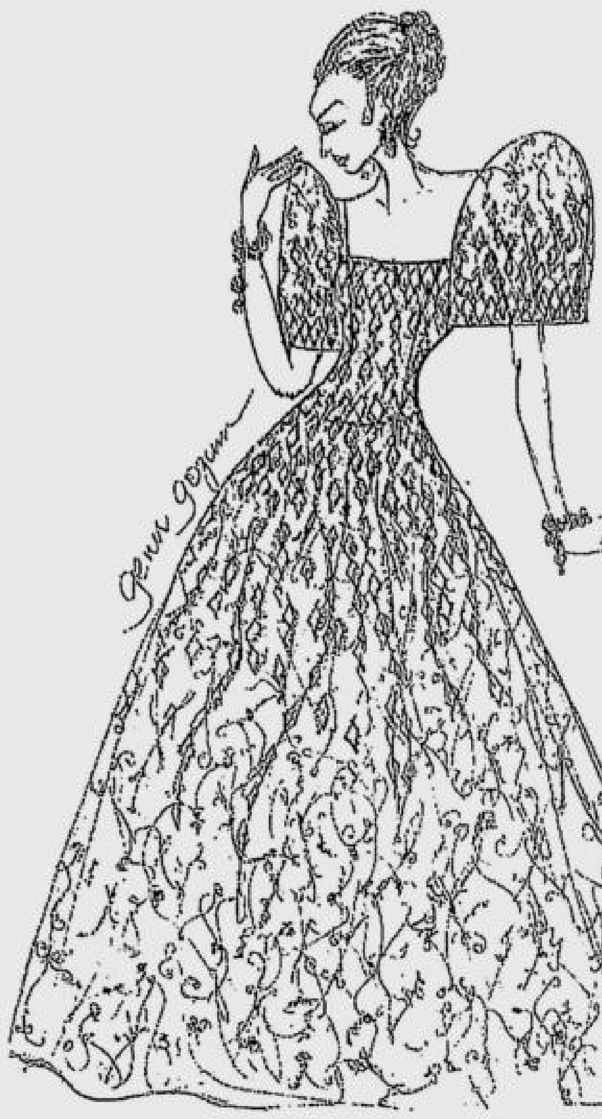
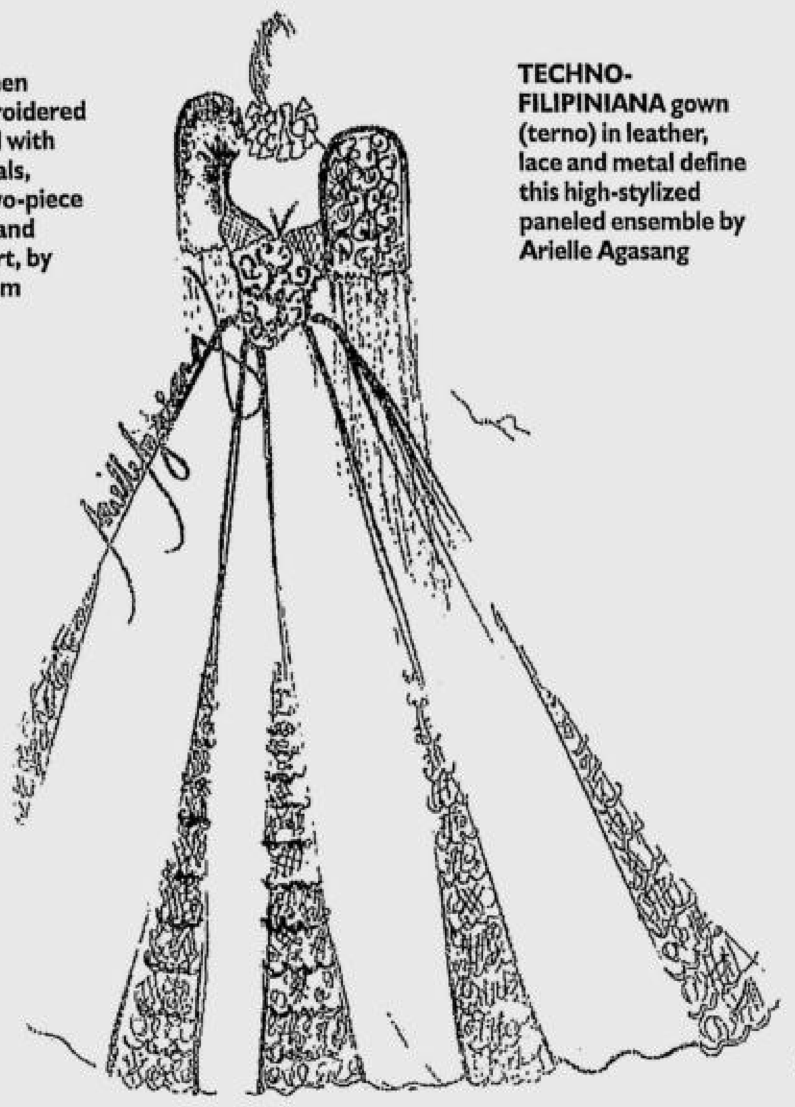
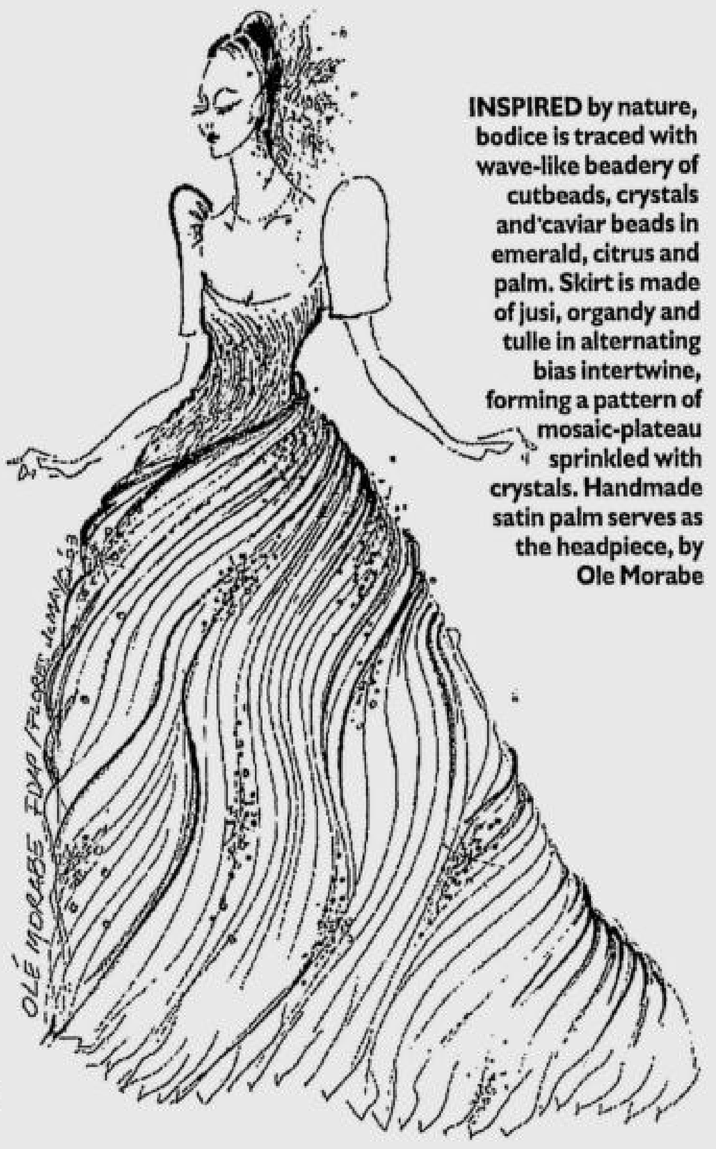


FOREST green taffeta embroidered gown traced with caviar, crystals, spangles. Two-piece corset type and bouffant skirt, by Gener Gozum

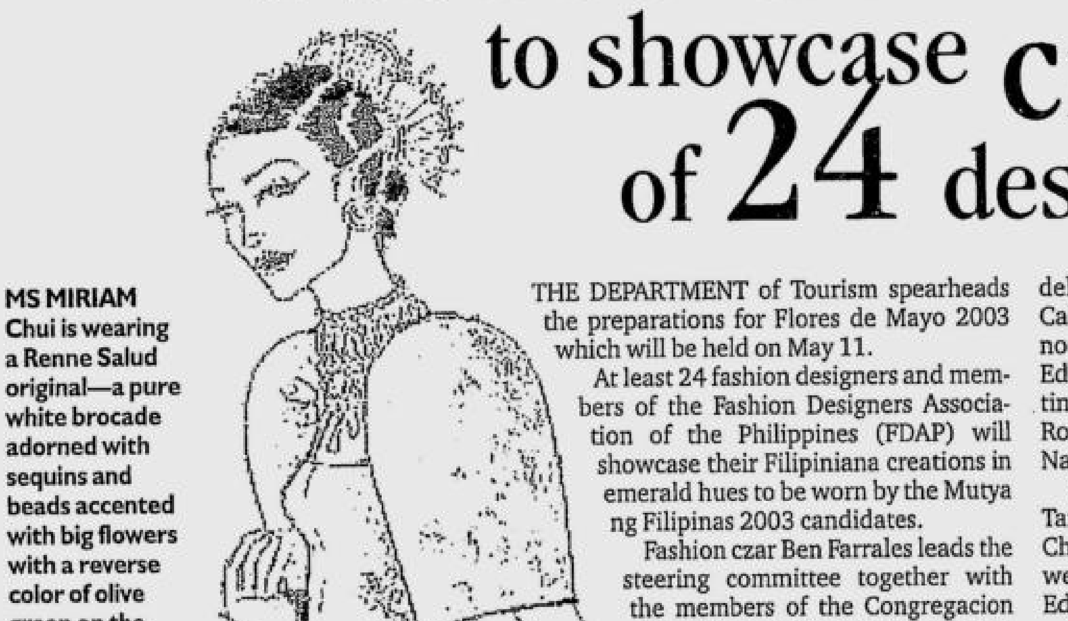


TECHNO-FILIPINIANA gown (terno) in leather, lace and metal define this high-stylized paneled ensemble by Arielle Agasang



INSPIRED by nature, bodice is traced with wave-like beadery of cutbeads, crystals and caviar beads in emerald, citrus and palm. Skirt is made of jusi, organdy and tulle in alternating bias intertwine, forming a pattern of mosaic-plateau sprinkled with crystals. Handmade satin palm serves as the headpiece, by Ole Morabe

Flores de Mayo to showcase creations of 24 designers



MS MIRIAM Chui is wearing a Renne Salud original—a pure white brocade adorned with sequins and beads accented with big flowers with a reverse color of olive green on the hem

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism spearheads the preparations for Flores de Mayo 2003 which will be held on May 11.

At least 24 fashion designers and members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP) will showcase their Filipiniana creations in emerald hues to be worn by the Mutya ng Filipinas 2003 candidates.

Fashion czar Ben Farrales leads the steering committee together with the members of the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus, while DOT Secretary Richard Gordon and Olongapo City Mayor Kate Gordon, Manila Mayor and Mrs. Lito Atienza, Unilever chairman Howard Belton are hermano and hermana mayores.

Participating designers are Johnny Abad, John Abut, Michelangelo Afable, Arielle Agasang, Ronaldo Arnaldo, Babang del Mundo ,Ivan dela Cruz, Edna Encarnacion, Francis Calaquian, Jon Espeleta, Ramon Esteban, Gino Fernando, Roland Lirio, Glenn Lopez, Edgar Madamba, Dennis Martin, Jontie Martinez, Ole Morabe, Gener Gozum, Rholand Roxas, Richard Papa, Lito Perez, Vivo Nazareth and Bumbee Ramos.

Grace Lee, reigning Miss Chinatown; April Tanhueco, reigning Miss Manila; and Mirriam Chui, reigning Mutya ng Pilipinas will be wearing the creations of guest designers Edgar Allan, Eddie Badeo and Rene Salud.

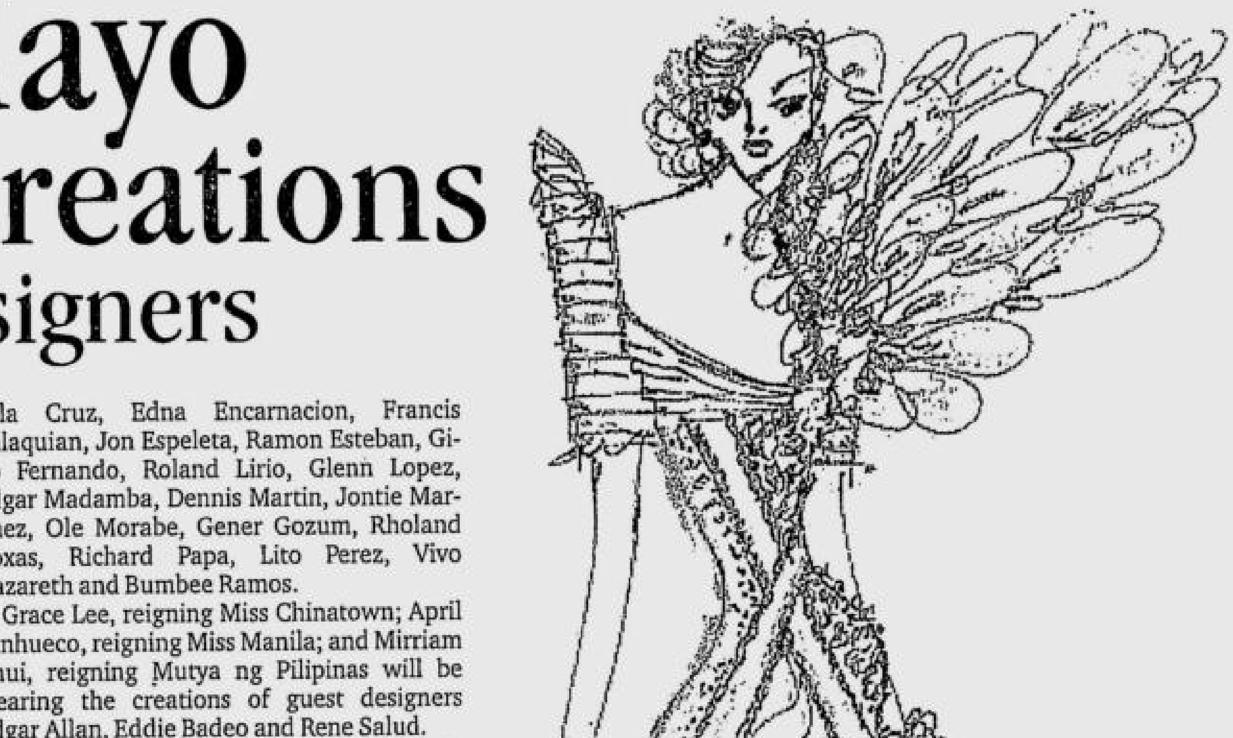
The "sagalas" and their escorts with their designers will be presented to the board of judges at Rajah Sulayman Park, in front of Malate Church.

Special awards at stake are Reyna de las Flores, Rosa Mistica and La Flor de Manila.

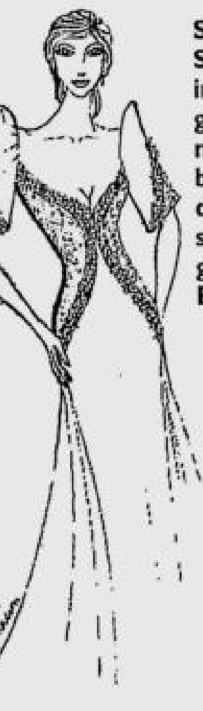
Members of the board of judges are Edgar San Diego, Dr. Carvie Roque, Chito Macapagal, Pia Sacro, Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab, Allan Tengco, Danny Dolor, Edu Jarque and Patis Tesoro.

The procession will commence from Rajah Sulayman Park to the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard towards Bonifacio Drive and turn right at Intramuros' Sta. Lucia Gate and conclude at San Ignacio ruins.

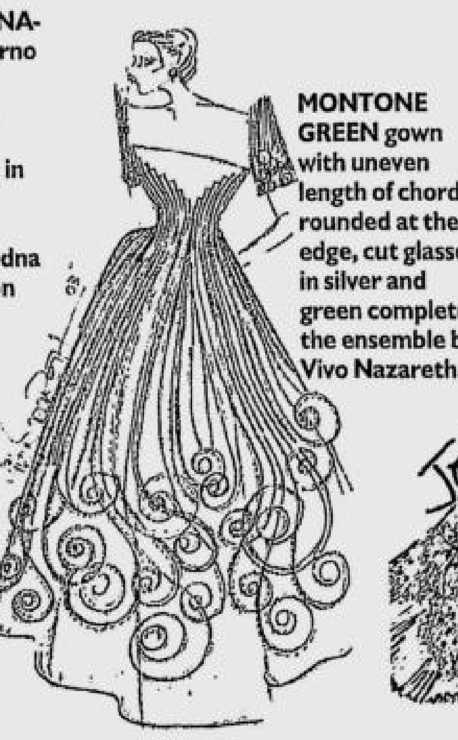
Call Lina Jose at 524-2384 and 525-2000.



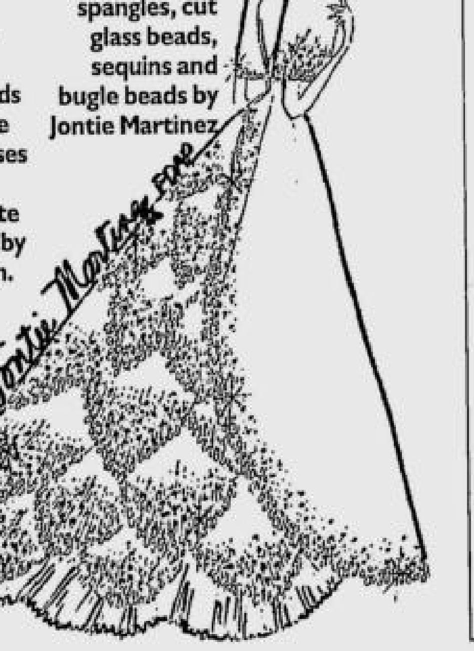
MONOCHROMATIC emerald green, grass green and jade green gown in Thai silk and lace chiffon. Bodice in one-sided circular bias ruffles at the skirt; draping terno sleeves, one-sided big petal collar with ostrich feathers. Embellished with trimming Swarovski crystals, by Eddie Baddeo



SERPENTINA-STYLED terno in emerald green with minimal beadworks in different shades of green, by Edna Encarnacion



MONTONE GREEN gown with uneven length of chords rounded at the edge, cut glasses in silver and green complete the ensemble by Vivo Nazareth.



DEEP EMERALD green iridescent tafetta with apron skirt and petalled train embellished with gold, silver and chartreuse spangles, cut glass beads, sequins and bugle beads by Jontie Martinez

Dubbed nightmares

From page K1

native language should have been done years ago—in cinema houses not television—if there is any semblance of sincerity or deeper concern for the preservation of the local tongue. As it is now, Hollywood films are still drawing crowds, all sorts of crowds of varying proportions and social classes, whether they are angst-ridden pieces like "The Hours" (Oh, my God! I break into a sweat at the thought of who is going to dub Nicole, Julianne and Merryl when they Filipinize this! *Huwag po! Huwag po!*) or the usual kiss-kiss-explode-explode sort of airhead thrillers starring your incarnate action heroes. And they are most certainly not dubbed to sound like replays of *Reyna ng* Vicks.

I really hope that La Bonita Presidentita hears about this. I mean, what with her US state visit and the possible raid by yet another US Embassy official of the Greenhills mall to illustrate rampant video piracy! I don't even know how the Institute of National Language or the chairpersons of the Filipino departments of leading institutions of learning react to actors ranging from Tom Hanks to Jennifer Garner mouthing perfect Tagalog lines while plowing through snow or detonating a bomb in some enemy territory.

Or can this be our revenge against globalization where everybody is slowly but surely being made to talk like text messages? *Ang d mrung mgmhl sa srilng wka I mshol pa sa mlnsng sda.*

Our Lady of Caysasay to visit Greenbelt chapel for novena Masses

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

AS PART of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of her image in Pansipit River by Juan Maningcad in 1603, the miraculous image of Our Lady of Caysasay will be brought to the Greenbelt Chapel in Makati on May 10 for the 5 p.m. novena and Mass at 5:45 p.m. Fr. Carlo Ilaga, rector of the Shrine in Barrio Labac, Taal, will say the Mass.

Venerated under the title Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Caysasay is also known by barrio folk as "Ang Birheng Gala." She always disappeared from the urn where she was kept after she was discovered and from the church where she was later enshrined.

Our Lady was found later by two women who took a drink from a well and saw the reflection of the Virgin in the water. She was above with two candles floating beside her, and a kingfisher (known as *casay casay*) hovering above the *sampaga* tree where the image was hanging from.

Upon the invitation of sculptor Ramon Orlina and Marietta Goco, this year's *hermana*, photographer Ted Arcilla and I visited the shrine last April 26. This particular visit was like a homecoming because I first went to Caysasay in March 1990.

The second time was more like a response to a call from the Virgin to visit her. I felt her presence strongly, as if she were telling me not to lose hope because she is always there to help.

Ted Arcilla was overwhelmed to receive healing when Father Carlo placed the image of the Virgin above him. It was a miracle, he said, that he was able to visit the shrine for the first time.

Miracles of the Virgin

Marietta Goco related to us the miracle wrought by God through the intercession of Our Lady of Caysasay. Teacher Erlinda Guillermo was in a wheelchair for three years until she was able to walk when she prayed to Our Lady last February. She was in the shrine for the Mass and healing when she heard someone say "Walk." And she did.

Titong Imperial, who was paralyzed for sometime, was also healed. Flor Cariaso Hilario suffered from pancreatic cancer, but had long life when she drank the water from the well where the Virgin appeared to the two women during Spanish times.

Two years ago, Ino Manalo brought Susan Pineda Mercado to Caysasay. Susan then had difficulty in conceiving a baby. Ino suggested that she pray to Our Lady of Caysasay. The next time Ramon Orlina saw her, she was carrying a toddler.

Orlina himself feels close to the Virgin. He designed the altar in the old shrine. His mother, Paulina Gahol Orlina, wrote and published a book on Taal in 1976, and one of the chapters carried a story about the Virgin.

Nine-day novena

The nine-day novena at Greenbelt Chapel will start on May 10, 5 p.m., and ends May 18. The public is invited.

The old shrine in Labac holds an 8 a.m. Mass every Saturday. On Sundays, Masses are at 6 and 7:30 a.m. Father Carlo has prepared a schedule for the Virgin's visits to various vicariates of the Archdiocese of Lipa starting June.

If you need something very badly like the healing of an illness or solution to a financial problem, attend the novena at Greenbelt Chapel. In thanksgiving, visit Our Lady of Caysasay's shrine in Labac. She also has an image at the Basilica de San Martin de Tours in Taal.

Those who wish to have prayer *estampitas* can write to me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

'Tata Husep' in Las Piñas

The feast day of St. Joseph in Las Piñas falls on May 4 this year. People from other places visit the old church of Las Piñas on this day to say "thank you" for answered prayers or ask for favors. Called "Tata Husep" by local folk, St. Joseph is known to have helped a lot of people invoking his intercession.

Ermita fiesta

May 19 is the fiesta of the Ermita district in Manila when the feast of Nuestra Señora de Guia is celebrated. The date commemorates the finding of the image of the Virgin on May 19, 1571, when Spanish soldier Juan Camus discovered the image being venerated by the natives atop a *pandan* bush.

Novena Masses begin on May 10 at 6 p.m., and ends May 18. This year's *hermana* mayor is Lina Vizcarra Oandasan.

Our Lady of Biglang Awa

The province of Marinduque marks the feast day of Our Lady of Biglang Awa on May 10. It is also the 25th anniversary of the Diocese of Boac. This year's *hermana mayor* is Luz Mondoñedo, while Patria Nepomuceno Jacinto will be the *hermana* for 2004.

Padre Pio healing Mass

There will be a Padre Pio healing Mass on May 5, 6:30 p.m., at Manila Seedling Bank Chapel. Fr. John Iacono will celebrate the Mass. An Italian priest, Father John was able to talk to Padre Pio way back in 1965 in San Giovanni Rotondo, when he was still a seminarian. Padre Pio told him that he would become a priest.

Blessed Poveda is now saint

Blessed Pedro Poveda, founder of the Teresian Association, will be canonized today in Madrid. Teachers and graduates of the Poveda School in Ortigas numbering 120 are now in Madrid to attend the canonization.

Father Poveda's charism centered on education. He founded the Teresian Association in 1911 in the diocese of Jaen, Spain, with some people who were closely working with him, including Josefa Segovia, who took over the work after the death of Father Poveda on July 28, 1936. He was assassinated by the Marxists in Madrid. The Teresian Association is present in 28 countries including the Philippines.

Father Poveda believed in education as a tool to make people better Christians. So he worked hard in the formation of better teachers and proper education of children.

Pedro Poveda Castroverde was born in Linares, in the province of Jaen, Spain, on Dec. 3, 1874. He was ordained priest in Guadix in 1897. He became Canon of Covadonga in 1906 then he moved to Jaen in 1913. He was named Royal Chaplain in Madrid in 1921.

As a young priest in Guadix, he gave himself to the Christian, human and social advancement of the poor and marginalized people. He lived among them in the caves, organized livelihood programs for adults and established schools for the children. In Cavadonga, at the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin, he accompanied pilgrims. Here, he prayed, studied and reflected on how he would stop the spread of atheism that was plaguing his country. Through bulletin, pamphlets, books, and letter, he did this.

Surrender to God's will

In a short prayer, Father Poveda submitted to God's will. He prayed as we should pray today: "Lord, grant that I may think what you want me to think; that I may love the way you want me to love; that I may speak what you want me to speak; that I may act the way you want me to act. This is my only desire."

At one time, he told the people around him: "You don't need to be rich in order to give. It is enough to be good. He who is good will always find something to give."

St. Pedro Poveda, pray for us!

Thanksgiving Mass

There will be a concelebrated Thanksgiving Mass at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City on May 31. In Davao City, a Thanksgiving Mass will also be offered on May 17 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Bo. Obrero, Davao City. The Teresian Association enjoins everyone to participate in the event.

The Philippine delegation is headed by Rosa Basas, sector director of the Teresian Association in the Philippines, with Bishop Soc Villegas, Bishop Joel Baylon and Fr. Roger Calaor. The delegation will return to Manila on May 8.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-176. Series of 2003.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings Engagements

RAMON and Rochelle Mangila (née Romero)

MANGILA-ROMERO NUPTIALS

Memorable wedding for one and all

SHOWER of blessings from their entourage

IT took them more than a decade to decide to get married, but when Ramon Tan Mangila and Rochelle Pena Romero finally did, made it a truly beautiful occasion that families and friends would always remember.

Held at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, the morning ceremony was attended only by close friends and family. The Ateneo Glee Club sang, and Bishop Ramon Arguelles, D.D, officiated.

The church was filled with blue hydrangeas, white roses, belles of Ireland and colorful tulips. Both bride and groom shed tears of joy.

The bride wore a duchess satin gown by Jojie Lloren while her groom was in a deep charcoal gray suit by Randy Ortiz, who also made the aqua gowns of the bride's attendants and the gowns and suits of the couple's parents.

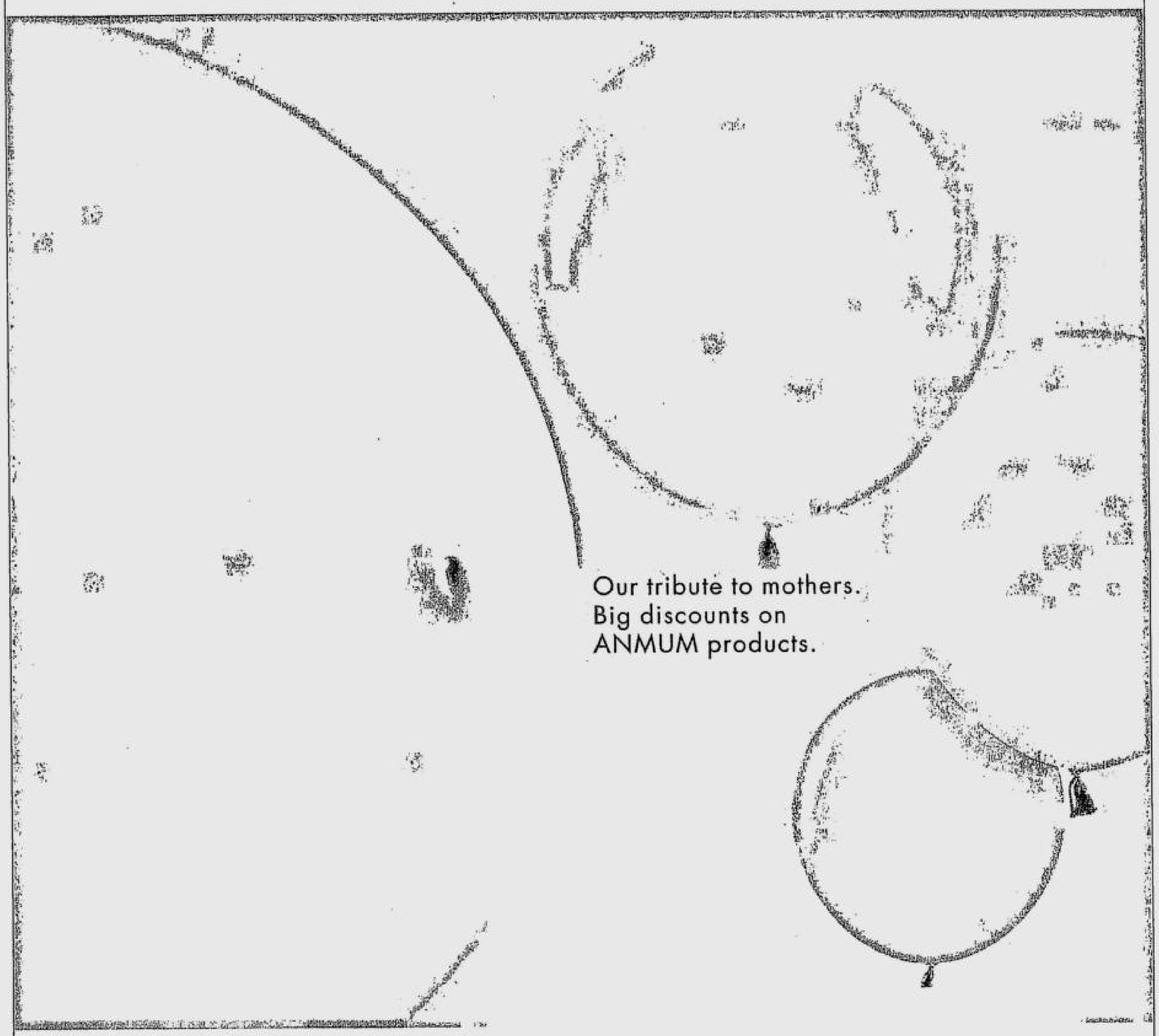
The wedding revolved around the color and movement of water. Little touches of color were added such as the yellow French tulips of the bridal bouquet.

Sen. Loren Legarda led the principal sponsors. Other principal sponsors included model Annette Coronel-Cruz, Ayala Center's Rowena Nazareth; the bride's aunt, PR practitioner Susan Joven; Dr. Aida Guarin; businesswomen Nancy Cua, another aunt of the bride who flew in from the United States; Beenah Ong, Remy Atutubo and Katherine Martin, actor Rudy Fernandez, Rep. Ernie Clarete, Dr. Amando Alfonso Jr., architect Jose Mangila, engineer Cesar Rillera, the groom's uncle

MEMORABLE/ L2

THE COUPLE with models Lyxen Diomampo and Aliya Parcs

THE FIVE-LAYER wedding cake topped with a good-luck blue crystal ball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THE NEWLYWEDS with their entourage

THE BRIDE and her family: maid of honor Raissa Romero, Salome Romero, Col. Estrellito Romero Sr., Rommel Romero and Lt. Estrellito Romero Jr.

WITH THE GROOM'S parents Tita and Rene Mangila

Memorable wedding for one and all

From page L1

from Australia; Brig. Gen. Francisco Bravo, businessmen William Tan, Florencio Suzara and Buddy Encarnado.

Reception was held at the Fort Bonifacio Clubhouse, which 1816 Flowers transformed into an elegant setting, draping the ceiling with white sheer fabric and decorating tables with huge glass vases filled with tulips and colorful fish.

Mon, a budding photographer and businessman, and Rochelle, a PR executive with Visions & Expressions, met nine years ago.

They got engaged last August in Singapore.

The couple honeymooned in New York.

THE GROOM with Jake Roxas and *ninong* Rudy Fernandez

WITH THE PRINCIPAL sponsors Hans Ong, Rep. Ernie Clarete, Florencio Suzara and Rochelle's dad Col. Lito Romero

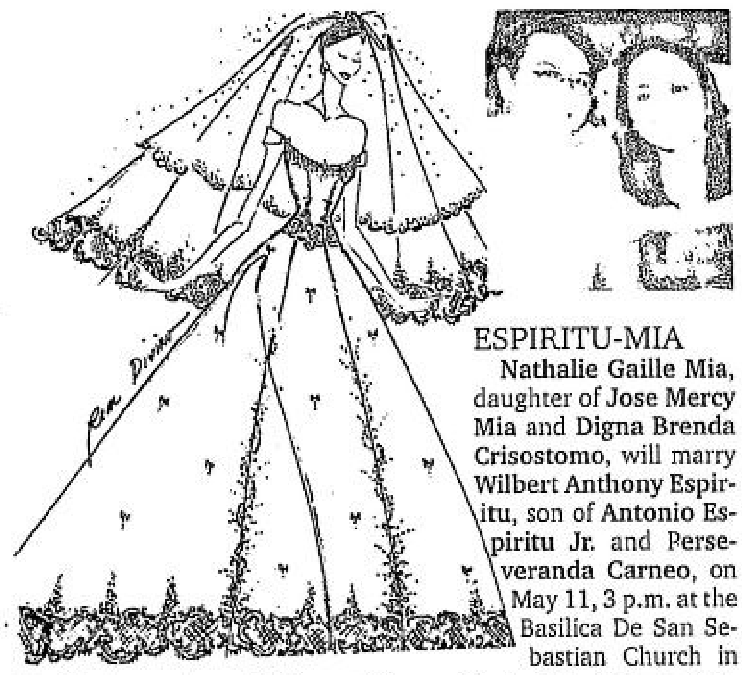
DR. Aida Guarin, Vivian Cua, Salome Romero, Remy and Ina Atutubo, Beenah Ong, Winnie Nazareth, Sen. Loren Legarda and Susan Joven

WITH SOME friends from Ayala Land

THE COUPLE with: (standing) Noel dela Merced, Donnie Ramirez, Anthony Suntay, Lloyd Joven, Tats Locsin; (seated) Resty Vergara, Ginggay dela Merced, Tet Suntay and Karen Joven

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

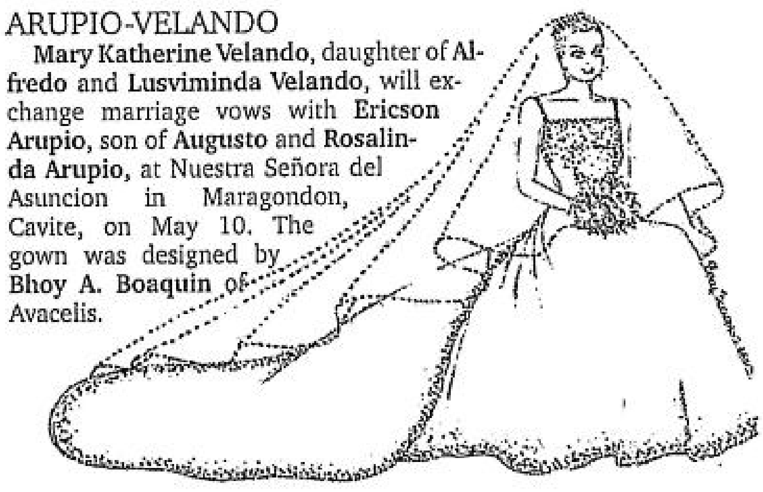


ESPIRITU-MIA

Nathalie Gaille Mia, daughter of **Jose Mercy Mia** and **Digna Brenda Crisostomo**, will marry **Wilbert Anthony Espiritu**, son of **Antonio Espiritu Jr.** and **Perseveranda Carneo**, on May 11, 3 p.m. at the Basilica De San Sebastian Church in Manila. Reception will follow at 6 p.m., Garcia Villa-Balagtas-Balmori Room of Peninsula Manila. The bride will wear a **Rem Divino** bridal gown made of pure *piña*, encrusted with Swarovski crystals in yellow and powder blue.

ARUPIO-VELANDO

Mary Katherine Velando, daughter of **Alfredo** and **Lusviminda Velando**, will exchange marriage vows with **Ericson Arupio**, son of **Augusto** and **Rosalinda Arupio**, at Nuestra Señora del Asuncion in Maragondon, Cavite, on May 10. The gown was designed by **Bhoy A. Boaquin** of Avacelis.

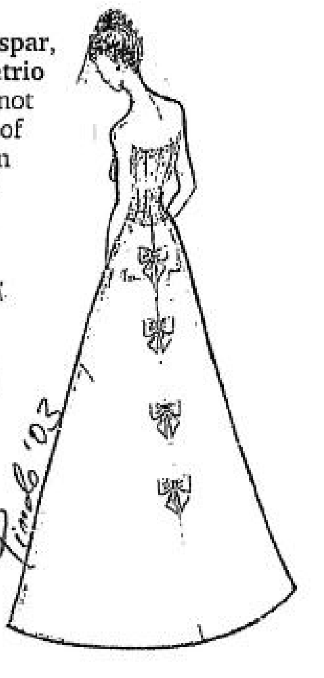


GITO-SAN GASPAR

Lawyer **Emily San Gaspar**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Emetrio San Gaspar**, will tie the knot with lawyer **Gener Gito**, son of Mr. and Ms **Carmelo Gito**, on May 10 at Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory Italian satin. The strapless bodice is embellished with caviar beads, faux pearls and rhinestones. The bias skirt has a detachable twin-panel train held by French bows.

Reception will follow at Coconut Palace, Cultural Center Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.



MARTINEZ-VILLANUEVA

Mark Anthony Buenaobra Martinez, son of **Rogelio** and **Elizabeth Martinez**, exchanged vows with **Charlote Dana Centural Villanueva**, daughter of **Rolando** and **Anita Delia Villanueva**, on April 26 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception followed at Puerta Real Gardens. Event coordinator was Brides and Debutantes.

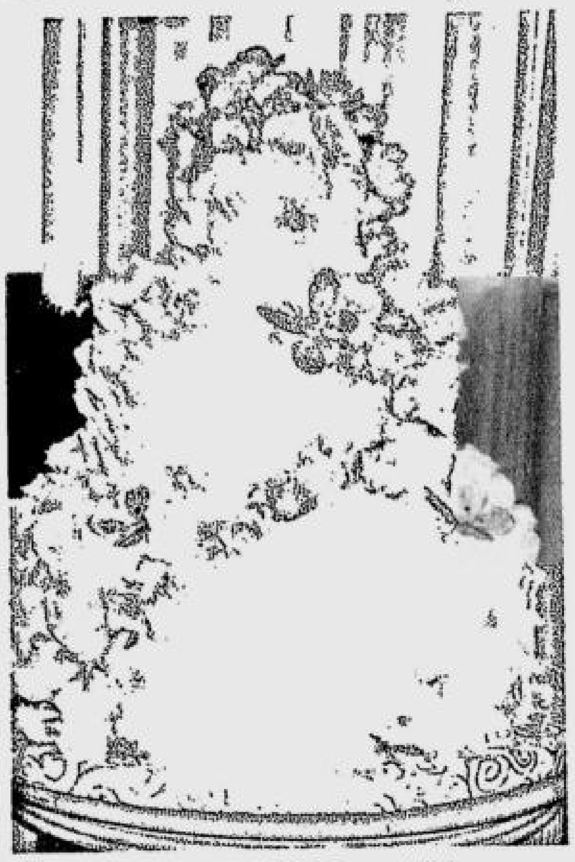
GO-UY

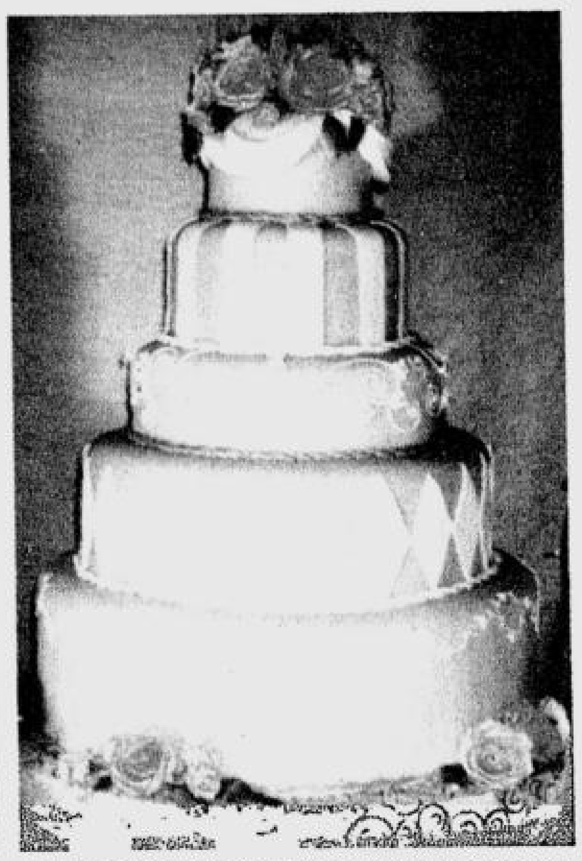
Veronica Y. Uy, youngest daughter of the late **Teofilo** and **Juliana Uy**, will wed lawyer **Erwin C. Go**, eldest son of **Emilio** and **Adelina Go**, on May 18, 4 p.m. at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, San Beda College, Mendiola, Manila. Reception will follow at the Fiesta Pavilion Ballroom of Manila Hotel. The gowns of the bride and her entourage are designed by **Randy Ortiz**.

APOLO-MORENO

Clifford Alcantara Apolo, son of **Gertrudes Alcantara Vda de Apolo**, and **Michelle Raya Moreno**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Alfredo Moreno**, will exchange marriage vows on May 10 at Sanctuario de San Agustin, Intramuros, Manila, followed by a reception at The Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, Rizal Park, Manila.

BLUE DIAMOND. Three-layer cake decorated with beautiful handmade flowers.


WHITE CHOCOLATE CAKE. Super delicious wedding cake covered with white chocolate curls.

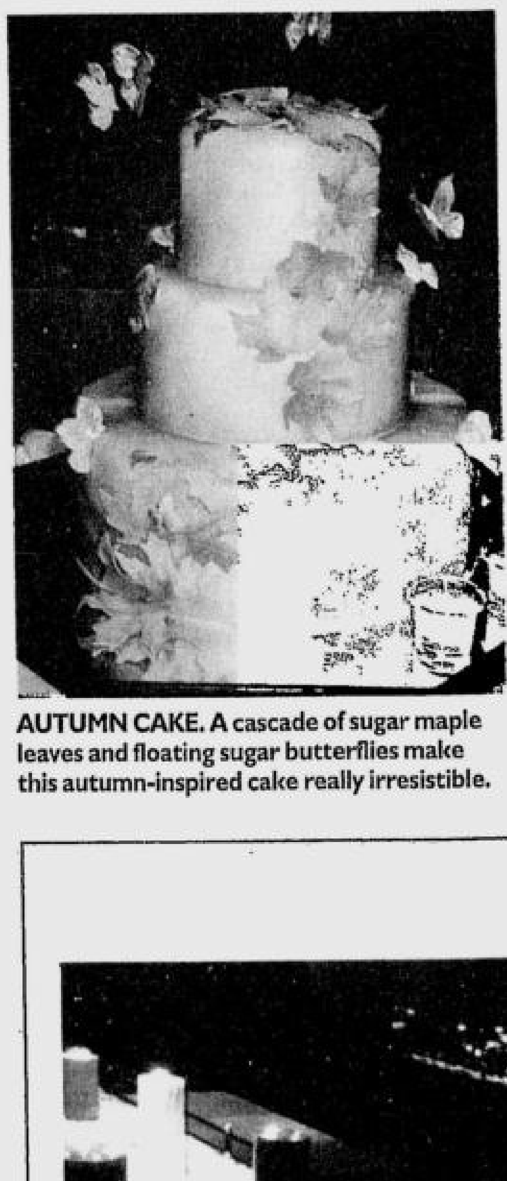

ORANGE CAKE. A five-layer cake designed by the bride, adorned with edible handmade flowers and leaves.

ENGLISH GARDEN. Delicious carrot walnut cake in fondant icing. Decorated with molded lace and edible sugar roses.

Cake artistry

One of Judy Uson's popular creations is a tower of mini chiffon cakes, a product of a 40-year-old recipe

GOURMET CAKE. Individually wrapped chiffon cakes with layers of orange custard and lemon butter icing. Guests can have one each for dessert or as favors.


AUTUMN CAKE. A cascade of sugar maple leaves and floating sugar butterflies make this autumn-inspired cake really irresistible.

By Walter Ang
Contributor

THE MOST striking feature about Judy Uson's cakes is the flower decor. They are so vibrant and beautiful that it will be a pity to take them off just to eat the cake. Until you realize they're not real.

"It's so easy to put fresh flowers on cakes, but I'm known for making my own sugar flowers. People are usually amazed to find out they are edible and they love to touch the flowers," she said. Judy's floral decor reflects this woman's passion for wedding cakes.

Ironically, Judy didn't even like to cook when she was a child. "I didn't even know how to cook *sinigang*! But I was never intimidated since I grew up in a family who loves to cook," she said.

Her husband Batch Uson, who can whip up a romantic dinner for two, eventually challenged and inspired her to explore the kitchen.

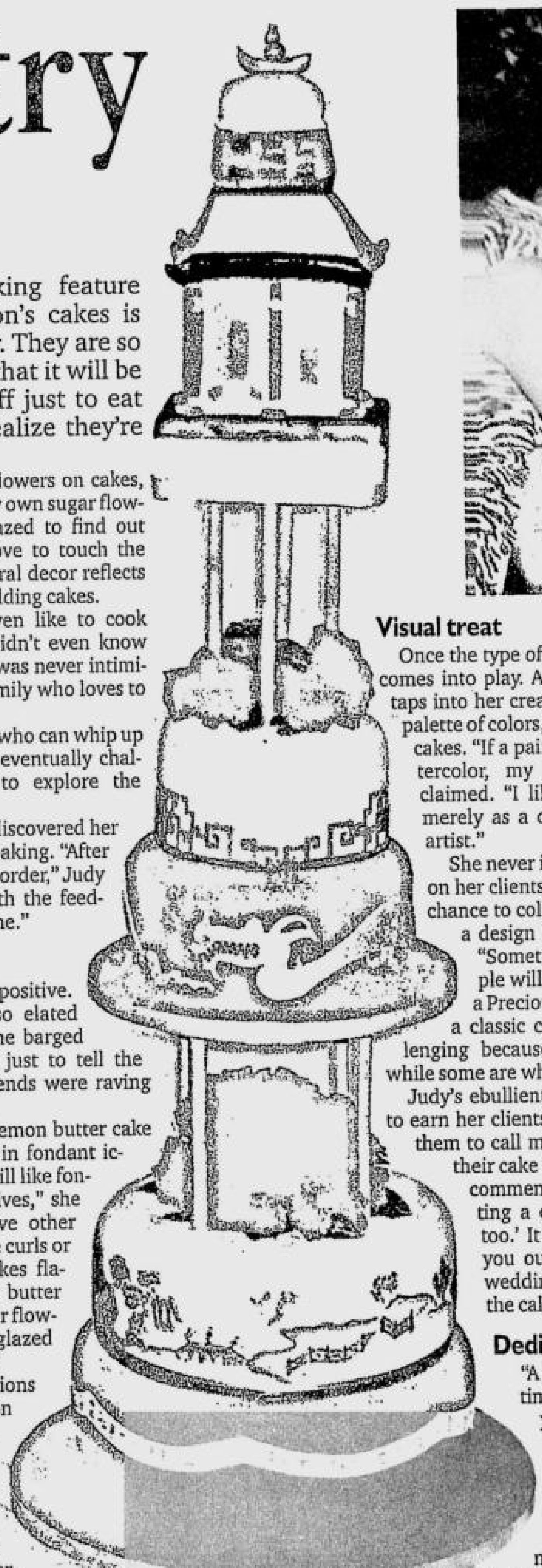
Pretty soon, kith and kin discovered her predilection and talent for baking. "After getting my first professional order," Judy said, "I was very happy with the feedback and went into it full-time."

Variety

Responses have been positive. One client's mother was so elated that, after the reception, she barged into the honeymoon suite just to tell the newlyweds how all her friends were raving about the cake.

Judy offers carrot cake, lemon butter cake and chocolate pound cake in fondant icing. While "a lot of people still like fondant, I offer them alternatives," she explained. "My clients have other choices like white chocolate curls or layered chiffon custard cakes flavored with orange-lemon butter cream icing. Instead of sugar flowers, they can have sugar glazed fruits (real ones this time)."

One of her popular creations is a tower of mini chiffon cakes, a product of a 40-year-old recipe, dressed to look like one big cake. The couple can keep the top fondant layer, while guests partake of the chiffon cakes. "It's very popular. Whenever they announce that guests can start getting their own cakes, the wedding hosts will joke, 'Hey, wasn't there a cake back there just a minute ago?' The biggest one I ever did was 400 pieces." Another popular option is to have mini versions of the main cake as gifts for wedding sponsors.


CHINESE CAKE

DETAILS of the Chinese city, willows and the golden dragon are carefully handpainted by the artist.

Visual treat

Once the type of cake is chosen, the design comes into play. A Fine Arts graduate, Judy taps into her creative roots and lets loose a palette of colors, shapes and textures in her cakes. "If a painter's medium is oil or watercolor, my medium is sugar," she claimed. "I like to think of myself not merely as a cake maker, but as a cake artist."

She never imposes a particular design on her clients. Instead, Judy relishes the chance to collaborate and come up with a design best suited for the couple.

"Sometimes I can tell what a couple will like and I'll suggest 'You're a Precious Moments cake' or 'You're a classic cake.' Debutantes are challenging because some are very ladylike while some are whimsical," she explained.

Judy's ebullient personality makes it easy to earn her clients' confidence. "I always tell them to call me even if it's not related to their cake order. One bride-to-be even commented, 'Wow, I'm not just getting a cake, I'm gaining a friend, too.' It feels nice when they treat you out for coffee long after the wedding just because they loved the cake you did for them."

Dedication

"A wedding is a once-in-a-lifetime event and it will live in your memory forever. I am entrusted with an important part of that event," she said. As such, she always pays close attention to the detail and craftsmanship of her cakes. "I really make sure it's clean and smooth and I like to make everything edible, down to the beads that I use for some designs. I also handpaint the cakes."

Her insistence on freshness usually leaves Judy only 1-2 days to prepare a cake. "I can do it five days before, but I don't," she said. Judys' past work experience as an event manager and producer for audio-video productions has given her the skills and temperament to "deliver, no matter what. If you can't sleep, you don't. I will do whatever it takes to make sure a cake is perfect for that special day."

Even though the responsibility rests heavy on her shoulders, "I'm so happy to have finally found something that I love to do. Whenever I see the guests' reactions or when they take pictures with the cake as background, all my tension and tiredness just melt away."

It helps that Judy's family is behind her all the way. Husband Batch sometimes assists with the deliveries, while five-year-old daughter Noee helps by requesting for divine intervention, "Dear Jesus, please make Mommy's cakes beautiful."

Call 0917-8975839 or e-mail judyuson@jeepney.ph

HANDPAINTED CAKE. Following the theme of earth and sky, this handpainted cake also has fresh flowers and floating butterflies.

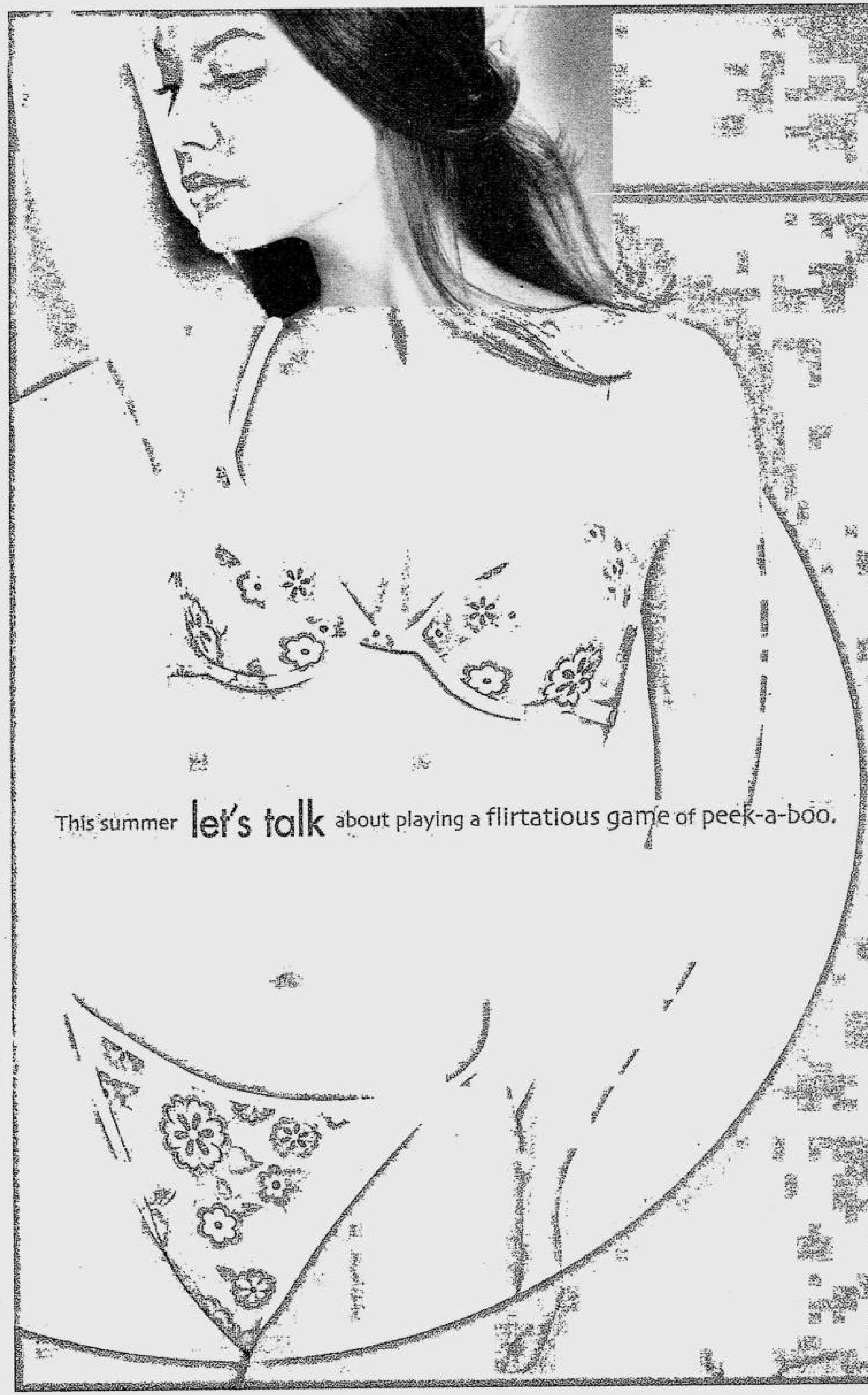
Wedding ideas in two-day bridal fair

MANILA Galleria Suites (MGS), together with Behind the Scene Productions and R&A Specialists, is holding "Love is in the Fair," a two-day bridal exhibit and fair, May 16-17 at the hotel's Manansala Ballroom.

The fair brings together the country's top wedding planners, wedding suppliers for services and accessories, and fashion designers. It will also feature MGS' banquet experts.

The event will showcase various floral arrangements and bridal bouquets at the hotel's Atrium, and different table settings by MGS. Fashion shows will present the latest designs in bridal and debutante gowns by leading designers. The Wedding Symphony will perform live chamber music at noon.

Interested parties may call the Banquet Sales office at 633-7111, locals 7310 and 7311, and 634-9902.



This summer **let's talk** about playing a flirtatious game of peek-a-boo.

AVON FASHIONS

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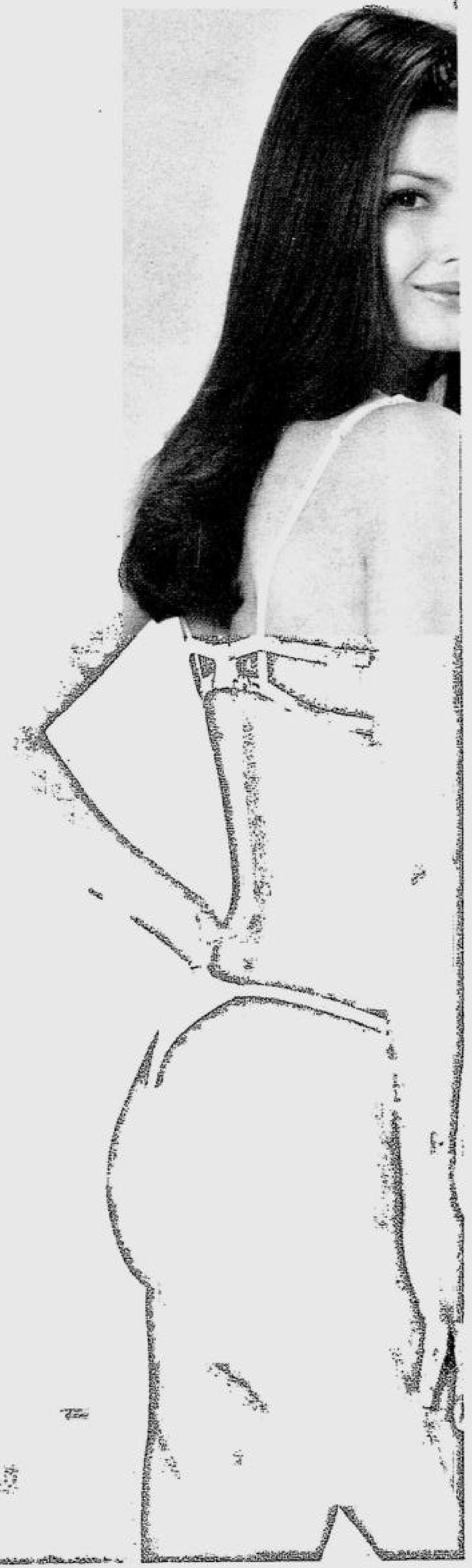

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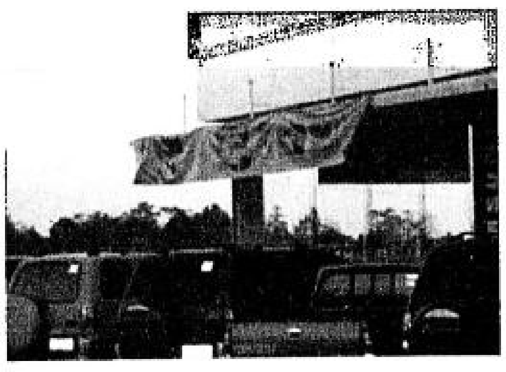
The challenge reached Isabela

NEW fuel efficiency records from Isuzu Philippines Corporation were set last 30 March in Isuzu Challenge Isabela. Nineteen teams, comprising of a driver and a navigator per vehicle, participated in the fuel economy drive and sports activities. The objective of the drive was to prove the impressive fuel efficiency of the Isuzu diesel engine technology on realistic road and traffic condition.



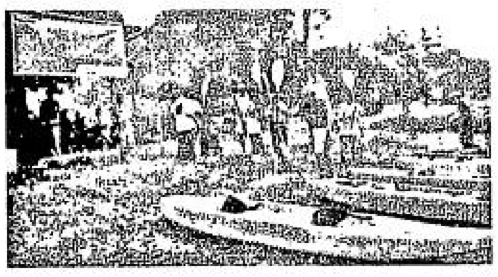
Fourteen vehicles were driven by Isuzu vehicle owners and the remaining 5 by media members. Vehicles were fueled with Shell Diesoline Ultra at Golden Trading Shell Station in Maharlika Highway, Cauayan. Participants then proceeded to the Isuzu dealership in 349 Maharlika Highway, San Fermin, Cauayan for breakfast and briefing.

At exactly 8:00 a.m., the first vehicle was flagged off by BMD Motors' President Ben M. Domingo and Shell's Retail Territory Manager Michael B. Velasco. Vehicle number 1, the team of Philippine Daily Inquirer's Charles Buban and Auto Review's Ron delos Reyes started the economy drive with remaining 18 Isuzu vehicles following at 1-minute intervals.

An 85.9-km stretch, the route consisted primarily of flat provincial roads from Isuzu dealership culminating at Rivera Shell Station in San Mateo.

The team of Henry Dy and Carter Baysa, driving a Trooper A/T broke the 2002 Isuzu Challenge record by marking a fantastic 62.70 kilometers per liter fuel efficiency with only 1.37 liters of diesel consumed for the 85.9 -kilometer run.

Uldarico Abrenica and Florencio Mercado, on board vehicle number 19 also broke last year's record for the Fuego M/T category with 47.4586 kilometers to a liter fuel efficiency or 1.81 liters of diesel consumption.



Other first placers were Aris Tan and Alexander Monforte for Crosswind M/T category with 55.4194 kilometers to a liter fuel efficiency or 1.55 liters of diesel consumption and Babyruth Salvador and Robert Salvador for Crosswind A/T category with 23.5342 kilometers to a liter fuel efficiency or 3.65 liters of diesel consumption.

Second placers for each category included Romy Cua and Watu Foronda for Trooper A/T category with 34.3600 kilometers to a liter (2.5 liters); Samuel Pacunana and Sammy Lloyd Pacunana for Fuego M/T category with 36.8670 kilometers to a liter (2.33 liters); Ronald Rey delos Reyes and Nathaniel Cruz for Crosswind M/T category with 49.6532 kilometers to a liter (1.73 liters); and, Julie Batugal and Christian Jay Batugal with 22.4869 kilometers to a liter (3.82 liters).

Third placers were Andy Leuterio and Dong Magsajo for Trooper A/T category with 34.3600 kilometers to a liter (2.5 liters); Ronaldo Azurin and Freina Guererro for Fuego M/T category with 27.0978 kilometers to a liter (3.17 liters); Ron delos Reyes and Charles Buban

for Crosswind M/T category with 42.1078 kilometers to a liter (2.04 liters); and, Romeo Nartia and Arceli Nartia for Crosswind A/T category with 21.6373 kilometers to a liter (3.97 liters)..

"The participants practiced and prepared with the aim of breaking the previous Isuzu Challenge records; not to mention the great prizes at stake as a motivating factor", observed IPC Assistant Department Manager Myrna V. Gonzales. Isuzu customers and media members pulled out all the tricks such as inflating the tires up to maximum allowable pressure; turning the aircon and radio off; closing the windows to reduce wind drag; removing unnecessary items inside the vehicles, things one doesn't normally do in ordinary driving. "It's a fun competition and we wanted to see how far they can go to achieve fantastic fuel efficiency records", added BMD Motors' President Benito M. Domingo.

The fuel consumption validation was conducted by Sanguniang Panglunsod Member Atty. Michael Dolmendo; Sanguniang Bayan Representative Philip Leano; and, RCBC Branch Manager Roger Balmaceda.

After the fuel economy run, Isuzu prepared exciting sports activities for participants that included Flag Capture, Kayaking and a military style Obstacle Course.

The 2003 Isuzu Challenge Isabela was presented by Samsung Electronics, powered by Shell Diesoline Ultra and in cooperation with WG&A Super Ferry.

Motoring journalists visit Shell fuels research center

A GROUP of Filipino motoring journalists was recently invited at the Thornton Research Laboratory in the United Kingdom where research on Shell fuels and lubricants are conducted.

These professional motoring writers were given a tour of the research center and shown to them the high-tech equipment in mixing oil. They were also given a crash course on how the fuels are being made.

Shell Velocity is one of the fuels that are being designed in the laboratory. As a result of extensive customer and technical research, Shell Velocity has now been completely reformulated and developed with Ferrari. Now it uses the same fuel technology that powered the Shell-Ferrari F1 Team though a victorious, record-breaking season in 2002. It gives instant and better response and maximum acceleration to the car compared to ordinary fuels.

"Shell expertly balances performance and efficiency. We can develop a fuel that is one less pitstop without sacrificing the performance. For the Philippines, we apply the same knowledge, tailor-fit to the needs of the same motorists," Shell fuels designer Dr. Nick Davenport of Shell Global Solutions-UK said.

Shell continuously develops new fuels that deliver better performance and improved efficiency, consistent with their thrust towards environmental conservation and sustainable development. Shell actively participates in fuel efficiency programs to educate the public on the importance of driving habits and fuel quality in achieving good fuel economy from their vehicles.

John Rodriguez, Pilipinas Shell Fuels Brand Manager explains, "Performance and efficiency go hand in hand. Improved combustion efficiency translates to better engine performance and driving benefits. Shell Velocity is acknowledged as the best performance gasoline in the country, but what people may not realise is that it is also our most efficient gasoline. The improved performance is achieved by driving efficiency to a higher level. So if you drive properly, you can enjoy both performance and fuel efficiency."

Fueling the drive for fuel efficiency.

The Department of Energy recently concluded its first Passenger Car Fuel Economy Run co-sponsored by Pilipinas Shell. Top car manufacturers in the country participated in the event, and provided 10 different unmodified cars fueled by Shell. The cars were driven at an average speed of 60-80 kph. The flag-off was at the DOE grounds, went all the way to Lipa City, and finished at the Shell Station in Fort Bonifacio.

The Department of Energy - setting the standards for fuel efficiency, today!

The following results may serve as a benchmark for energy efficiency for Filipino motorists.

FUEL ECONOMY RUN RESULTS CHART

Make	Model	Engine Displacement	Transmission (M/A)	Specific Fuel Consumption (kilometer/liter)
Honda	Civic VTi	1600cc	Manual	18.21
Kia	Rio LS HB	1493 cc	Manual	16.48
Kia	Rio RS Sedan	1343 cc	Manual	16.75
Mitsubishi	Lancer GLS	1584 cc	Manual	16.73
Nissan	Cefiro VIP Brougham	1995 cc	Automatic	11.86
Nissan	Sentra GX	1300 cc	Manual	18.84
Toyota	Corolla Altis	1598 cc	Manual	27.36
Toyota	Prius*	1497 cc	Automatic	21.25
Volvo	Volvo S40	1948 cc	Automatic	14.43
Volvo	Volvo S60	1984 cc	Automatic	12.66

* Hybrid electric/gas fueled vehicle.

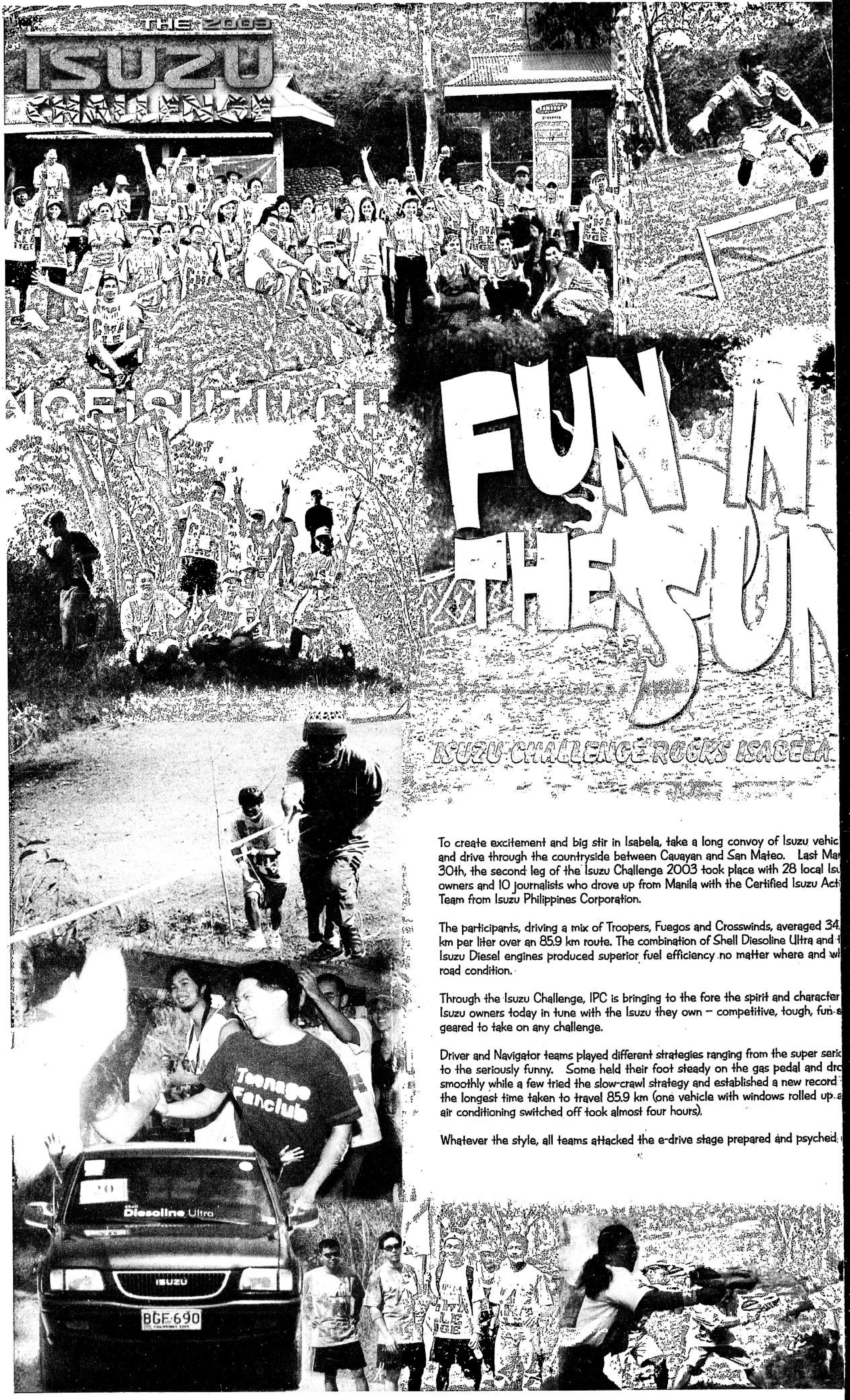
Fueled by:

"The way you drive dictates your car's fuel consumption. So drive smart and exercise your power of choice!"

Vicente S. Perez Jr.
Department of Energy
Secretary

Drive right and use the right fuel.
For real efficient engine performance.

A message from:
Shell
Velocity



FUN IN THE SUN

ISUZU CHALLENGE ROCKS ISABELA

To create excitement and big stir in Isabela, take a long convoy of Isuzu vehic and drive through the countryside between Cauayan and San Mateo. Last Ma 30th, the second leg of the Isuzu Challenge 2003 took place with 28 local Isu owners and 10 journalists who drove up from Manila with the Certified Isuzu Acti Team from Isuzu Philippines Corporation.

The participants, driving a mix of Troopers, Fuegos and Crosswinds, averaged 34. km per liter over an 85.9 km route. The combination of Shell Diesoline Ultra and t Isuzu Diesel engines produced superior fuel efficiency no matter where and wi road condition.

Through the Isuzu Challenge, IPC is bringing to the fore the spirit and character Isuzu owners today in tune with the Isuzu they own – competitive, tough, fun a geared to take on any challenge.

Driver and Navigator teams played different strategies ranging from the super seric to the seriously funny. Some held their foot steady on the gas pedal and dro smoothly while a few tried the slow-crawl strategy and established a new record the longest time taken to travel 85.9 km (one vehicle with windows rolled up a air conditioning switched off took almost four hours).

Whatever the style, all teams attacked the e-drive stage prepared and psyched.

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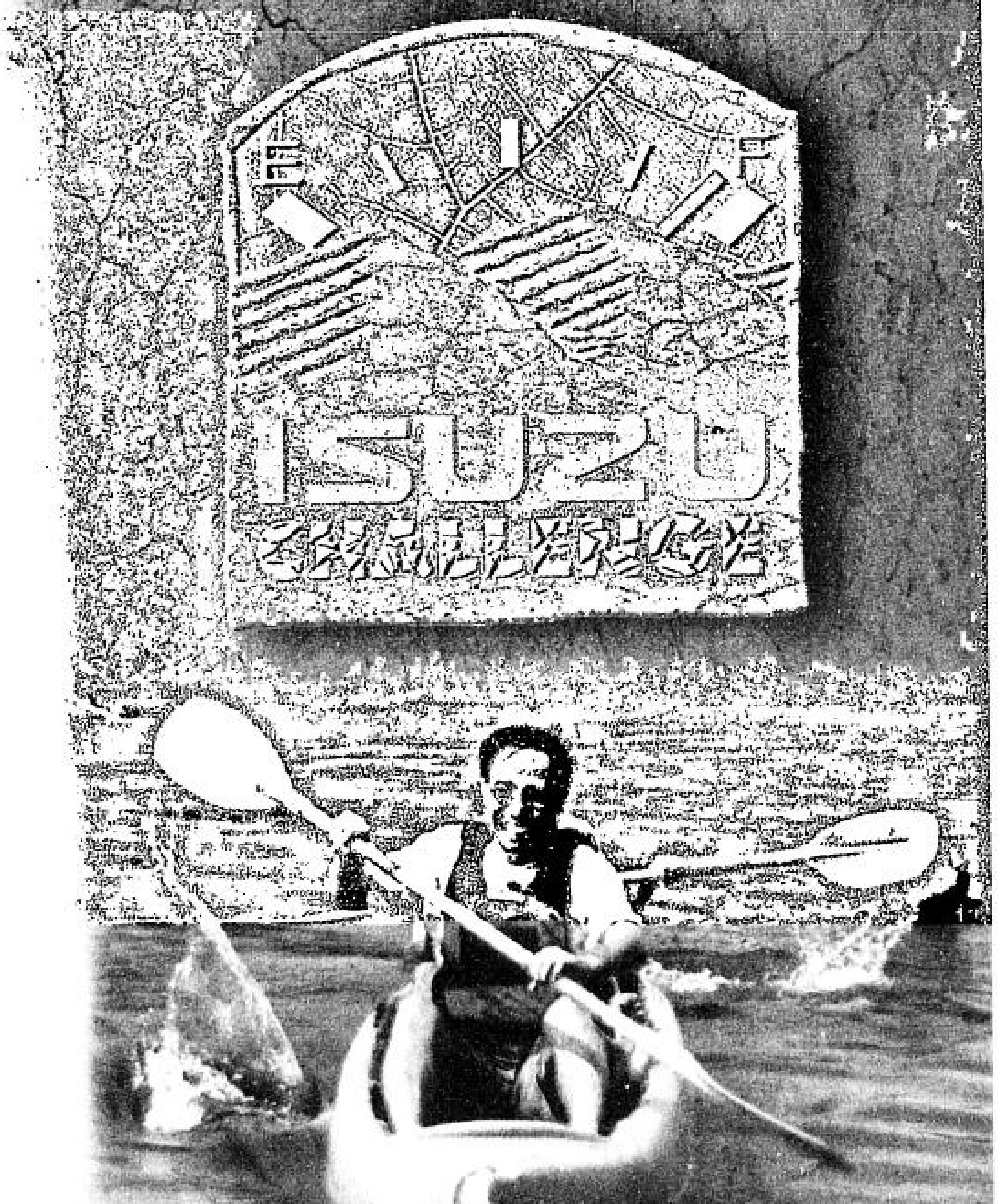
ISUZU CHALLENGE
SAMSUNG

COUNTRYSIDE



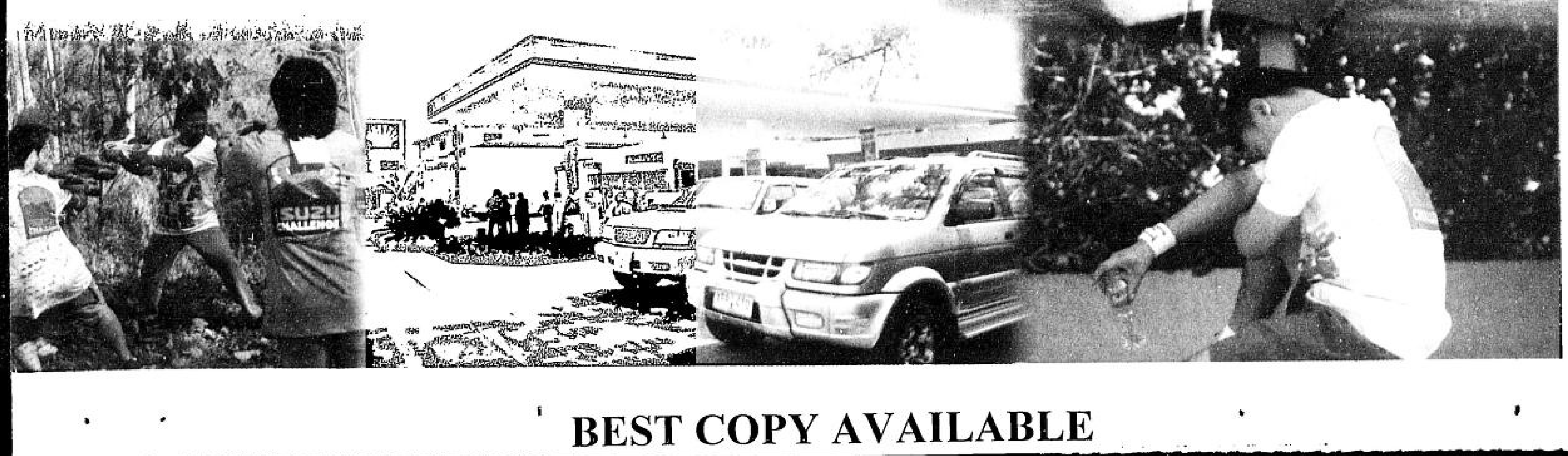
The motivation was strong with P10,000 and Samsung DVD players as prizes for first place and a bonus of P30,000 for breaking the standing record by the widest margin but the spirit to take on new challenges seemed to be the strongest motivator.

Later in the day, the sports challenges truly brought out the fun and adventurous side of the normally quiet people from Isabela. Whether 15 or 50 years old, it was amazing to see one and all play every team sport with full enthusiasm.

Kayaking was new to many but nonetheless the participants took the water like pros. The flag capture game brought the teams together. Once they had the paint filled water rifles in their hands, the average age level seemed to drop under 15 as the team ran off into the jungle zone eager to sight the enemy and blast them.

But the game which really showed the competitive spirit was the obstacle course. The participants seemed prepped for the Olympics as they sprinted at top speed, climbed, crawled and dove to beat the opposing team before collapsing with a cold drink to recover before taking on the next challenge.

If the level of competition in the first two legs is any indication, the National finals in November where all the winners of the Cebu, Isabela, and soon to be staged Manila legs will compete, is going to be a blast.



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APC scholarships: quality education within reach

IT'S A public perception that to get quality education nowadays, you have to match the fees that entails good academic training. This prevents a lot of our high school graduates to pursue higher studies. Yet, financial difficulties should not prevent anybody aiming to take up a bachelor's degree. That prompted Asia Pacific College (APC), an educational partnership of SM (Shoemart) Foundation and IBM Philippines to offer various academic scholarships and financial assistance programs. With the aid of APC, qualified and deserving students are provided with assistance to pursue their IT degree without worrying too much about the matriculation costs.

"APC, through the support of SM Foundation, is capable of offering generous academic scholarships and financial assistance programs for our Filipino graduates. At present, we are not limiting the slots, as long as they meet the necessary requirements, they can avail of the programs," said APC president Dr. Paulino Y. Tan.

The programs are differentiated to meet different needs. With varied choices to choose from, potential scholars can easily identify the suitable program that fits them, based on their capacities as well as limitations. APC's academic scholarships are designed to reward graduates who achieved academic excellence while its financial assistance programs are for those who are deeply affected by today's challenging socio-economic conditions.

APC's academic scholarships are categorized into four groups namely: Entrance Academic Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, SM Foundation Scholarship and the Army Special Forces Special Educational Foundation Scholarship.

The Entrance Academic Scholarship is for fresh high school graduates who earned top honors. Valedictorians will receive 75 percent subsidy from tuition and other fees, 50 percent for salutatorians and 25 percent for the top ten percent of their graduating class.

At the end of each school year, APC students who have grades of 3.0 (equivalent to 90 percent) and above will automatically enjoy a 60 percent scholarship for the rest of the following school year as a dean's scholar. To qualify, students must have stayed in the college for at least three terms.

The SM Foundation scholarship grants the qualified public school graduates from NCR, Cavite, Iloilo, Pampanga, and Davao 100 percent full tuition and other subsidy plus a P2,000 stipend per term. All applicants of this scholarship may inquire at any SM (Shoemart) Customer Service. Scholars can then apply for any degree programs at APC after being screened based on the criteria and requirements of the SM Foundation.

Members or dependents of the Special Forces Regiment (Airborne) Socom of the Philippine Army can also avail of 100 percent subsidy through APC's Army Special Forces Foundation Scholarship.

The financial assistance program is divided into three categories - the public school graduates, parish school graduates and the socialized financial assistance. High school graduates with at least 80 percent general average are qualified to apply.

Graduates from public high schools can avail of a 75 percent subsidy while parish high school graduates with tuition fee of less than P25,000 a year are entitled to a 60 percent subsidy.

In the socialized financial assistance program, a family with an annual household income of less than P300,000 maybe granted a 50 percent subsidy and 30 percent if it's between P300,000 to P600,000 per year.

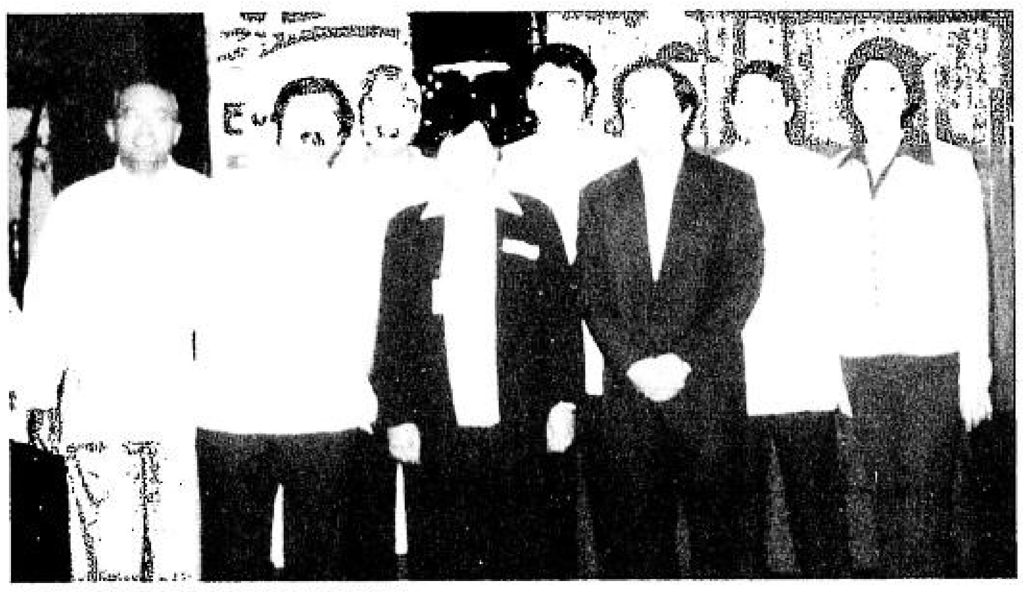
"APC has successfully produced graduates of industry caliber. Through these scholarship and financial assistance programs, we would like other deserving students to have that chance to develop and eventually become part of a very dynamic industry," said Dr. Tan.

The college's academic programs are designed to provide students with effective communication skills, practical skills in IT, fundamental business knowledge, strong general education foundation and proper work ethic. The degree courses are offered in a trimestral schedule. Classes start on May 28.

All these opportunities are still open to students who will decide on an APC education. For more information visit the Admissions Office at G/F, #3 Humabon Place. Magallanes, Makati City. Call at 852-9670 to 71, or email at admissions@apc.edu.ph. You may also check their website at www.apc.edu.ph.

METROBANK FOUNDATION BAGS ANVIL AWARD

The Metrobank Foundation, Metrobank's philantrophic arm, recently bagged two Anvil Awards of Merit during the Public Relations Society of the Philippines' (PRSP) 38th Anvil Awards, for its entries, the search for The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (Tops) and an institutional audio-visual presentation entitled 'Helping Hands to Build Better Lives.' Winning under the Public Affairs Management and Communication category is Tops, an annual recognition program that honors Filipino soldiers who serve as examples of personal and professional excellence and who have outstanding track records of service and achievement throughout their career in the military. The 'Helping Hands to Build Better Lives' institutional video is an information tool used by the foundation in its effort to advocate the practice of corporate social responsibility. Photo shows Metrobank Foundation executive director Aniceto M. Sobrepeña (right) receiving the award from Robinsons Robina Gokongwei-Pe, member of the 38th Anvil Award board of jurors while Business-World Online's Michael Marasigan, member 38th Anvil Awards board of jurors (extreme left) and PRSP internal vice president Ma. Victoria Medina (3rd from left), chair of the 38th Anvil Awards look on.



JGSPC CONDUCTS SEMINAR

In keeping with its thrust to provide quality products and excellent service to its consumers, JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. (JGSPC), the only integrated manufacturer of polyethylene and polypropylene in the country, recently conducted a seminar on HDPE, LLDPE, and PP Films at the Amorsolo Ballroom of the Manila Galleria Suites for the current and potential users of Evalene PE and PP resins. The speakers were Elsie David, JGSPC's R&D and technical services manager, and Victor Lo, regional technical manager of Asia Pacific for Ciba. Shown in photo are (from left): JGSPC officials with friends from Ciba; EVP-COO Willy Paras, Benjamin Tan, Cesar Fernando, Elsie David, Patrick Henry Go, Victor Lo (Ciba), Mike Sityar (Ciba) and Treena Relova.

ASSUNTA AND LOTUS PENS

Celebrity endorser Assunta De Rossi's TV commercial for Lotus Ultimate Writing Instruments was successfully launched last March 23 on local television stations during popular shows including ABS-CBN's Asap noontime show and GMA's Mel and Jay talk show program. Initial feedback from consumers have been very positive, indicating that the commercial, which also features Tado of Strangebrew fame, has indeed been a success. The TV commercial will be regularly seen on top-rating local television shows including Sharon, The Buzz, Eat Bulaga, Mel and Jay, and others. Assunta follows up this successful commercial with print ads, slated to break soon in leading newspapers Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin and the Philippine Star. Lotus Ultimate Writing Instruments have been the country's leading brands when it comes to writing instruments. Assunta and Lotus... a great partnership indeed.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES FOR LDC

RJ Ledesma (right) EVP of Ledesco Development Corp. tapped the expertise of Ramon M. Marchan (left), managing director of Metro Alliance Property Management Corp. to handle consultancy and project management for the adventure facilities at the scenic site of the Taal View Heights Nature Villas and Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club found in Tagaytay/Talisay area. Now being enjoyed by interest buyers with kids and friends in tow apart from the perfect view of Taal lake and volcano are camping grounds, hiking trails, biking trails, bouldering walls, rock-climbing walls, adrenaline slide, rope courses and rope ascending.

MENTOS PROMO GRAND WINNER

Last Dec. 18, 2002, the grand prize winner for the Mentos Cool Chews, Cool Pipol promo was drawn. The lucky winner of a brand new Toyota Echo Verso model 2002 was Lino L. Lopez of 580-I, Del Rosario Extension Cebu City.

Sun Cellular lends a hand for OFWs

SUN CELLULAR is assisting the government in its campaign to bring the Filipino OFWs in war-stricken Iraq and Kuwait closer to their families. Sun Cellular is giving out its services for free to aid the government in its "Oplan Kalinga" - a project to establish a 24-hour call center to ensure that communications will be open and available for our Overseas Filipino Workers facing the terror of war in the Middle East. This undertaking is part of a nationwide effort to help dispel the fears of the public on the dangers being posed by the war.

The 24-hour call center was set up by the Office of the Press Secretary and the Presidential Action Center in partnership with other government agencies and telecommunication companies following the outbreak of Iraq. These agencies include the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), Department of Labor and Employment (Dole), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Middle East Preparedness Team.

Mrs Basal, whose husband Ronaldo is caught in the middle of the war, called from the booth of Sun Cellular and lauded the project as a big help to those who are worrying about the safety of their loved ones in the Middle East.

During this time of uncertainties and chaos, Sun Cellular stands firm in its commitment as a corporate citizen concerned and committed to the plight of its country. Though sun Cellular is new in this GSM arena, it is highly committed to take their share in supporting our country these tough and troubled times. Sun Cellular is offering its excellent services to the Philippine government and the Overseas Filipino Workers and their families to ensure that communications is obtainable and accessible.

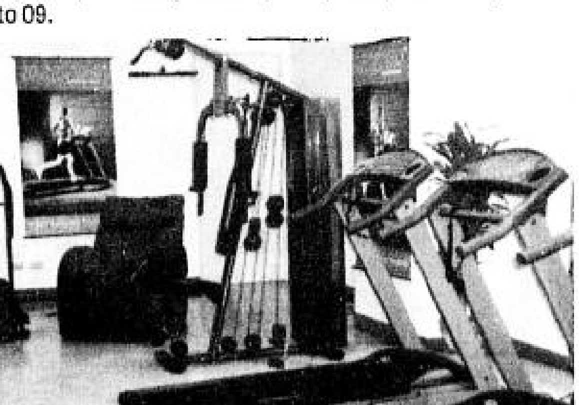
Sun Cellular is aware of the fact that communications play a vital role in situations like this - it is the only link we have to our countrymen caught in this battle. Rest assured that Sun Cellular could be depended on to provide this important service to the Filipinos.

Sun Cellular is equipped with features far advanced than other mobile operators. Sun Cellular is outfitted with the modern technological advances to better respond to the growing needs of the Philippine mobile user market.

ProductFILES

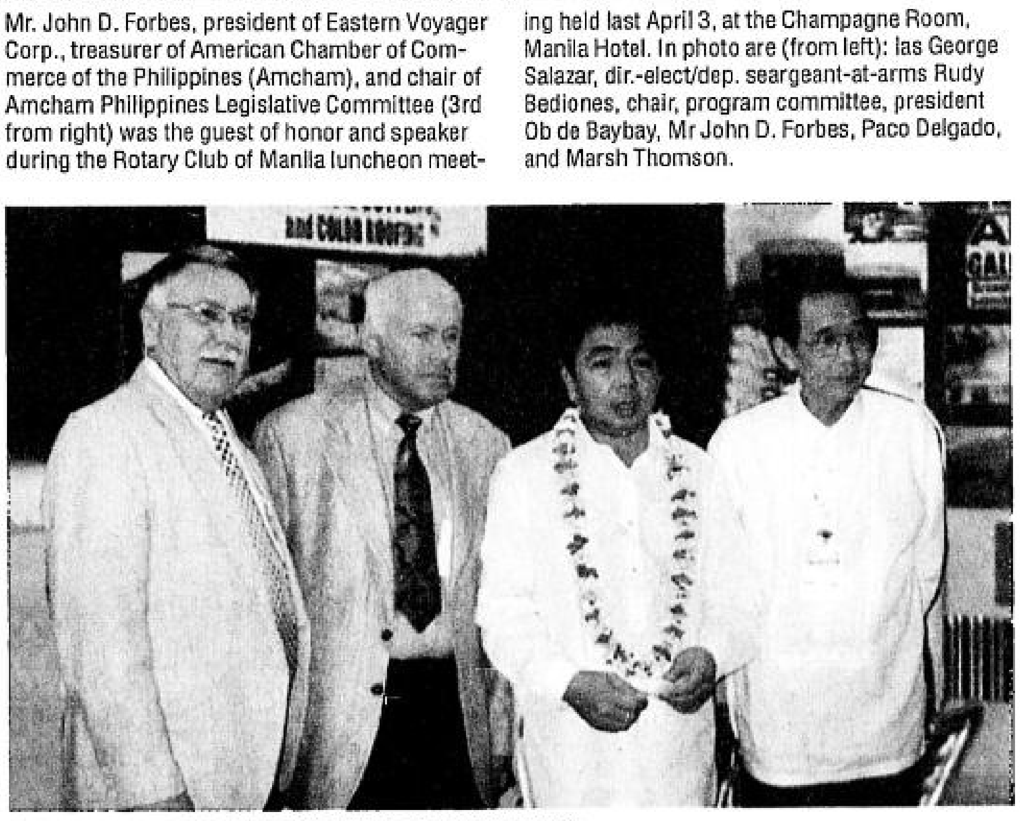
Healthstream launches new products

CATIS Philippines Corp, sole distributor of Healthstream International, manufacturer of gym equipment, sporting goods and accessories, and massagers in the Philippines, recently launched new products at the SM Megamall A Atrium area. Photo shows some of Healthstream's equipments for gym and personal use. Their showroom is located at Unit 2 ground floor, Bayview International Tower 2, Roxas Boulevard, (almost at the corner of Airport Road) Parañaque City. For particulars please call 855-8308 to 09.



AMCHAM TREASURER SPEAKS AT RCM LUNCHEON MEETING

Mr. John D. Forbes, president of Eastern Voyager Corp., treasurer of American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (Amcham), and chair of Amcham Philippines Legislative Committee (3rd from right) was the guest of honor and speaker during the Rotary Club of Manila luncheon meeting held last April 3, at the Champagne Room, Manila Hotel. In photo are (from left): Ias George Salazar, dir.-elect/dep. seargeant-at-arms Rudy Bediones, chair, program committee, president Ob de Baybay, Mr John D. Forbes, Paco Delgado, and Marsh Thomson.



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JOB Market

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- Preferably knowledgeable in branch operations
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- Excellent facilitative, coaching, problem-solving and conflict resolution skills

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BRANCH OPERATIONS HEAD (BOH-05-03)

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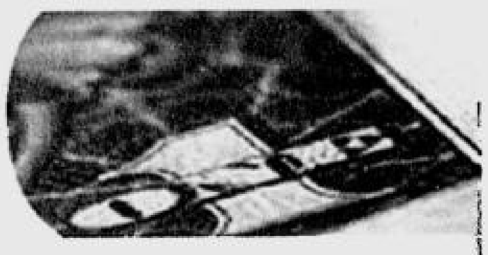

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- Can work with minimum supervision

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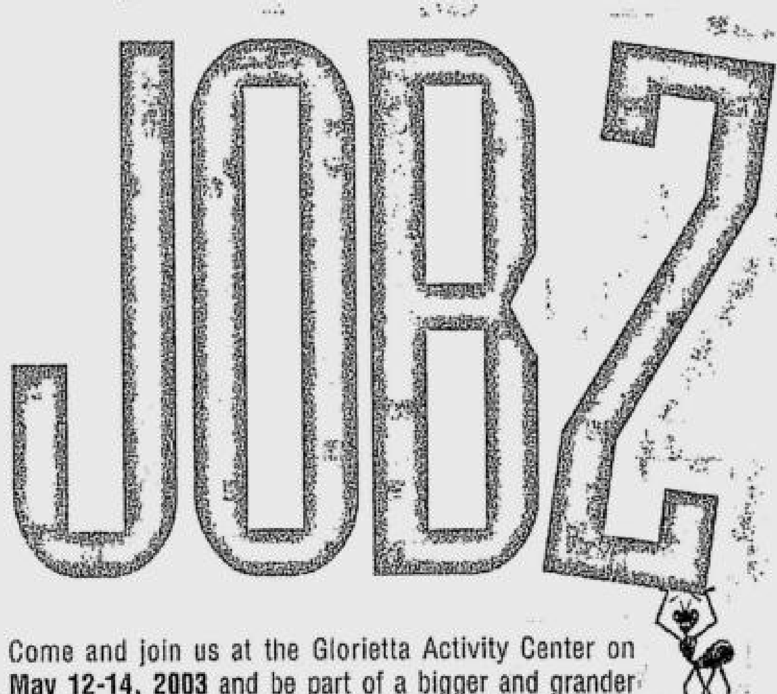

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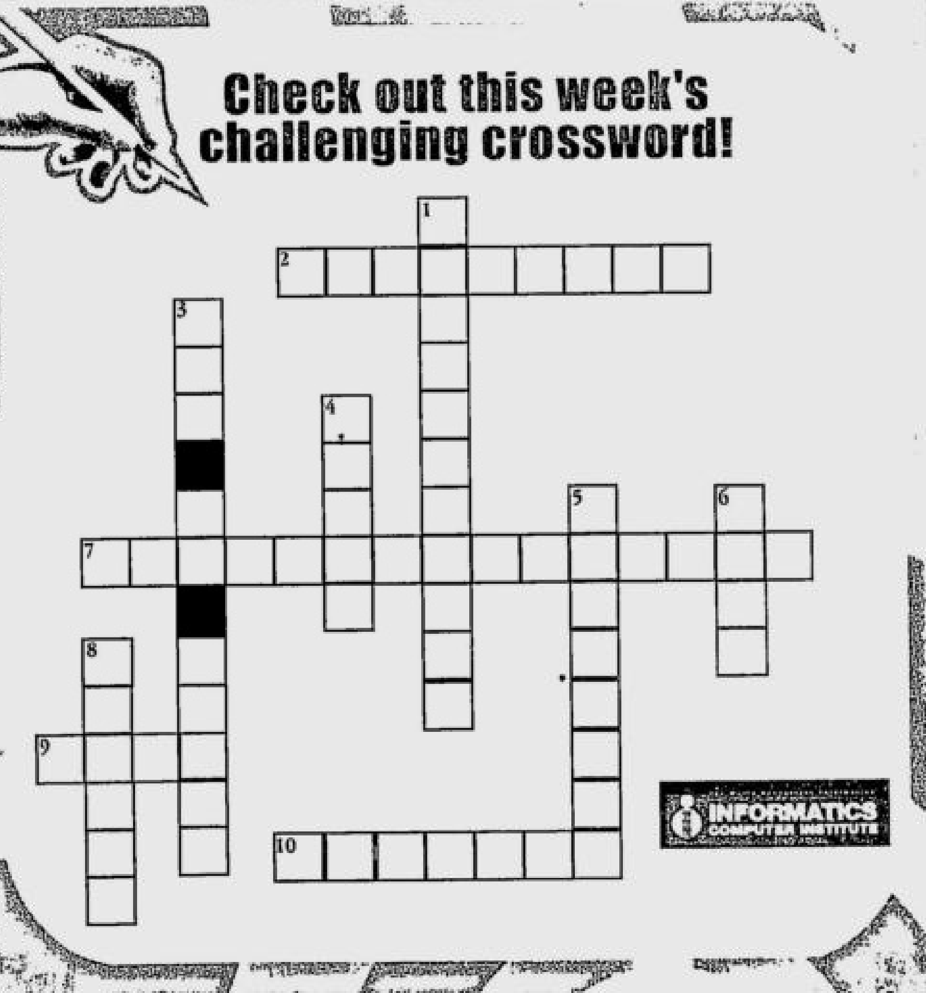
Address: ____________________
Phone Number/s: ____________________
Fax Number: ____________________
Contact person: ____________________

Kindly fill-up this form and fax it to any Inquirer branch near you.

JOB Market
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market
AYALA CENTER

Check out this week's challenging crossword!



INFORMATICS COMPUTER INSTITUTE

Using the clues below, fill up the puzzle correctly and completely.
Then send it to **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER** Chino Roces Ave. Makati City or any **Inquirer Branch**, along with your personal details for a chance to gift certificates from INFORMATICS COMPUTER INSTITUTE.

ACROSS
- 2 ABC Car Rentals & Tourist ___, Inc. (see p.06)
- 7 Putting off to some future time what could be done now (see p.10)
- 9 Work at ___ to avoid SARS & other disea (see p.09)
- 10 Vision-X, Inc., it's where job search ends and ___ begin. (see p.04)

DOWN
- 1 Dept of Agriculture is looking for a ___ Officer (see p.06)
- 3 Cunanan Price Water House Chorale (see p.14)
- 4 World's leader in Imaging (see p.07)
- 5 ___ City, location of Hotel Ponte Fino (see p.05)
- 6 Build good relationships, especially with your ___. (see p.10)
- 8 "The word is getting ___" Mitsubishi's old slogan (see p.12)

NAME ____________________
ADDRESS ____________________
____
TEL. NO. ____________________
SIGNATURE ____________________

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www.jobmarketonline.com From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: INQUIRER

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Dynamic Holding Company engaged in Sales & Distribution in Centralized Air Conditioning, Waterproofing Products, and Allied Services is looking for:

SALES ENGINEER - For Manila

- Male or Female, BSME Graduate
- 2-3 years working experience in HVAC, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Equipment
- has positive work attitude and a goal achiever

ACCOUNTING HEAD/CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- a FEMALE Certified Public Accountant
- have had 3 years work experience in the Managerial Position
- can work long hours
- knowledgeable in ALL phases of Accounting systems (general, financial, cost, and inventory)
- has positive attitude and good leadership

RESTAURANT/STORE SUPERVISOR

- 26-35 years old, female with pleasing personality
- graduate of any Management Degree, or Hotel and Restaurant Management
- 2-3 years tested supervisory experience in Hotel, and Restaurant Operation preferably in Chinese Restaurant Operations
- computer literate, can manage and motivate people, and can work under pressure

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Who will provide advice and service in the area of financial management and all the operating and service unit of all the companies of the holding company by managing the activities of management information system, budget and costing and accounting.

Requirements:

- must be a Female CPA with at least 5 years experience in the same or related field
- computer literate, and excellent in oral and written communication, preferably with Master's Degree
- has good track record and has established contacts in the business community
- must have strong leadership skills who can train, motivate, & coordinate an effective dynamic team

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Who will direct and coordinate activities of the organization to obtain efficiency and economy of operations and maximize profits.

Requirements:

- Male, a licensed Mechanical/Electrical Engineer, or a CPA preferably with a Master's Degree
- between 35-45 years old, at least 7-10 years in the managerial position and has supervised the areas of HR, Administration, Accounting, and Sales and Marketing, and Materials
- must have strong leadership who can train, motivate an effective dynamic team
- has a dynamic personality and excellent in oral and written communication

TEAM ASIA CORPORATION

TEAM ASIA CORPORATION
Submit your detailed resumé, 2x2 picture & transcript of records,
not later than May 24, 2003 to:
Ms. ALMA D. LUCIANO
Human Resources & Administration Department
430 Lt. Artiaga St., San Juan, Metro Manila or to: dbia@pacific.net.ph

---

stride

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Comptroller

- ✓ CPA
- ✓ 3 years audit work experience including one year supervisory experience from top 3 audit firms; or 3 years supervisory experience in general accounting in a medium size company
- ✓ Experience in design and evaluation of computerized accounting systems
- ✓ Experience in treasury, financial planning and budgeting; with MBA, a definite plus

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resume indicating the position to:
GLOBALSTRIDE CUSTOMER SOLUTIONS
Attn: Human Resources Department
29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Avenue,
Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Email: jobs@webservasia.com.ph
Fax No: 911-8854

University of Santo Tomas
College of Science

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The UST College of Science is urgently in need of the following:

1. Instructor in Zoology
with M.S./Ph.D. Zoology degree

2. Instructors in Math
with M.S./Ph.D. Math degree

3. Instructors in English
with M.A./Ph.D. English, MA./Ph.D. Linguistics or M.A./Ph.D. Literature degree

For inquiries, please call
Ms. Florinda Sy at 7315728
(direct line) or 7313101 loc. 8224 (trunk line)

WANTED

30 staff auditors

Male and Female, accounting graduates, in their early 20's, proficient in the use of computerized office productivity tools such as Excel and Word, will be the ideal candidate. Assignments will primarily be in Metro Manila, although some travel may be required.

The requirement is urgent, hence, starting April 21, 2003, interested parties may bring their resumé to Ms. Kat Nolasco, at Manila Consulting, Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center, Valero corner Sedeño Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel. 830-2033.

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES AWAITS YOU

Customs and International Trade Consultants

The world of international trade, including market access, tariff reform, liberalization and trade remedies is in one of its most interesting phases, not only in the Philippines, but also in the Asia-Pacific region. Anyone interested in this field of business consulting should find themselves drawn to the opportunity being presented.

Our international customs and trade practice deals with projects including valuation of imported goods, duty relief, duty preference, trade remedies and legal restructuring to ensure our clients are duty efficient across the supply chain. You need specific knowledge of customs law and business procedures, as well as a broad knowledge of customs and international trade issues gained in any of the following: finance, law, government service or cross-border trade. You should understand how these issues affect business, and have the ability to present complex issues clearly and concisely. You must also bring a capability to develop and implement practical solutions against tight deadlines combined with the ability to work with initiative, independently. Ideally, you will also have practical IT skills and working knowledge of e-commerce and its application to business. We are looking for skills and knowledge or a demonstrated ability and potential to acquire these quickly. Fluency in both written and spoken English and Tagalog is essential.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, being an Employer of Choice, offers a wealth of opportunities for the successful candidates. Our substantial investment in training and development will keep you on the cutting-edge of management thinking and the global trading environment. Plus, there is excellent opportunity for career advancement aligned with your own career aspirations. A comprehensive and attractive salary and benefits package will be offered.

If you are ready to define excellence and shape the future of business, please send / fax / email your resume before 9 May 2003 to:

PricewaterhouseCoopers
WMS (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.
Philippine Branch Office
29th Floor, Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas
1226 Makati City
Philippines

Fax: + 63 2 885 0535
E-mail: wms.hr@sg.pwc.com

*** Only short-listed candidates will be notified.**

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

Worldtrade Management Services

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ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific
Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) Management Specialist

The RETA management specialist (domestic consultant) will work in Governance and Regional Cooperation division to support the implementation of TA 6082-REG: Supporting Country-Driven Private Sector Development Strategies.

Description of Responsibilities

Under the guidance of ADB's Senior Private Sector Development Specialist, the specialist will undertake the following tasks:

- Provide secretariat services to the Private Sector Development Committee for the project;
- Coordinate communication among ADB staff and the international and domestic consultants;
- Identify additional tasks/elements for grant financing and mobilize it;
- Handle all administrative matters related to the TA and its implementation including preparation of internal and external progress reports;
- Review and summarize incoming reports and papers, assist in commenting on and editing them, identify key issues that need further refinement, and liaise with the international and domestic consultants on them;
- Develop a schedule and methodology for disseminating the TA results, including the interregional dissemination workshop;
- Establish and maintain a reporting and filing system for activities under the TA and prepare reports and papers for presentation at the interregional workshop;
- Carry out all organizational arrangements for disseminating the TA results through interregional networks and the interregional workshop;
- Prepare and manage the relevant TA budgets;
- Support the exchange of experience and coordination with other development agencies and facilitate networking, communication, and contact among concerned government officials, international agencies, and other key stakeholders who will be invited to attend the interregional workshop;
- Prepare the layout of the publication and optimize its appeal to the target audience; and
- Edit and proofread the publication.

Selection Criteria

- A minimum of master's degree in economics, law, finance, business administration or a related field of study;
- Minimum of 5 years work experience and active involvement in private sector development and related issues; and
- Experience in a private sector development department of the Government, relevant agency or similar would be desirable

The RETA management specialist will be engaged for a period of 8 months. Extension of the services can be arranged in mutual agreement. The work will mainly take place in the ADB Headquarters in Manila.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB offers an internationally competitive salary paid in US dollars. Salaries and benefits are generally free of tax except for citizens of some countries, primarily the USA and the Philippines, whose incomes are taxed by their respective governments. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. Applicants must be nationals of one of ADB's member countries. International experience will be taken into consideration.

Please send your application on or before 10 May 2003 to:

Ms. Karen Decker
GOVERNANCE AND REGIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION

Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines
Tel: 632-5916 • Fax: 636-2193
E-mail: kdecker@adb.org

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RUGBY ALL-PURPOSE CONTACT CEMENT

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

Graduate of any business course; with at least 3 years work experience in sales, or as Regional Sales Manager in a consumer or pharmaceutical distribution business; good communication skills; male.

Work Base: Cebu
Area of Coverage: Visayas

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Must be a licensed Chemical, Mechanical or Industrial Engineer; minimum of 5 years experience in industrial/manufacturing setting, at least 3 years as a Production Manager; exposure in the coatings, paints, adhesives and sealants manufacturing is an advantage; knowledge in production machines, motors, filling machines and automation; good communication skills and labor relations; computer literate.

Work Base: Tanay

CHEMIST

Graduate of Chemical Engineering or Chemistry; preferably licensed; with work experience in laboratory/testing methods; male; computer literate.

Work Base: Tanay

HR SPECIALIST

Preferably graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, or Human Resource Management/Development; proficient in computer software, microsoft office 2000; excellent command of both the English and Filipino languages; preferably with 2-3 years experience as HR Specialist in Training and Organization Development.

Work Base: HO

BUSINESS BUILDING OFFICERS (2)

Graduate of BS Civil Eng'g., Chemical Eng'g. & BS Architecture or related course; at least 1 year experience in technical or industrial sales; background in marine or construction preferred; excellent communication skills; computer literate, willing to travel extensively.

Work Base: 1 for Bicol; 1 for Laguna

Send your letter of application, comprehensive resume and 2x2 colored picture to:
GLOBAL BRANDS COMPANY, INC.
573 Gloria St., Marick Subd., Cainta, Rizal
E-mail: hrd-recruitment@globalbrands.com.ph Tel. No. (02) 655-0790 loc. 137

BUENCONSEJO-ILLUSTRADO AND ASSOCIATES

Urgently needs....

JUNIOR MANAGERS (Code: JM)
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE (Code: MT)
CORPORATE EXECUTIVE (Code: CE)
COLLECTION OFFICER (Code: CO)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- GRADUATES OF ANY 4-YEAR COURSE
- MALE/FEMALE
- LICENSED OR NON LICENSED, W/ OR W/OUT EXPERIENCED
- NEWLY GRADUATES AND OFW ARE WELCOME TO APPLY

Applicants are required to bring comprehensive resumé, and original credentials and recent photo.

Highly competitive compensation packages awaits successful candidates!

Corporate Human Resources and Corporate Department
235 C MERCAN BUILDING EDSA EXTENSION PASAY CITY
on May 5 - 10, 2003
look for: **Ms.Estrada** (Human Resources Specialist) HRD
Your application will be held in strictest confidence.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO EARLY RESPONDENTS

CLIS THIS AD TO YOU RESUMÉ

A Handicraft Export Company
is in urgent need of

SENIOR MERCHANDISERS

must have the ff. qualifications:

- ✓ Female 25-30 years old
- ✓ At least 3 years experience as a Merchandiser in an exporting co.
- ✓ Has excellent oral and written Communication skills in English
- ✓ Knowledge in MS Word, MS Excel, E-mail, Internet Explorer
- ✓ Holds a B.S. Degree in either Business Management / Business Administration / Marketing / Clothing Tech.

Send Resumé with ID photo to:
834 Felipe Pike Street
Bagong Ilog, Pasig City, MM 1600

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VXi

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And Careers Begin.

Company: **Vision-X** is one of the most geographically and culturally diverse providers of Customer Contact in the world, operating world class contact centers in both the US and China. It will launch its Manila call center operations in May initially with 700 seats with plans to expand to over 3000 within a three year period.

Open Positions:

Position: **Call Center Supervisor**

Location: Makati City
Reports to: Operations Manager
Job Responsibilities:

- Responsible for managing the day-to-day activities of a large group of Call Center Agents/ Representatives
- Coaches, develops, supervises and mentors team leaders
- Ensures adherence to quality standards and targets

The Person:

- University graduate
- Possess at least 3 years experience in managing about 100 agents in an outbound call center environment
- Preferably with experience gained from a large, multinational, outbound call center
- Possess excellent communication, mentoring and coaching abilities
- Fluent in oral and written American English

Position: **Recruitment Officer**

Location: Makati City
Reports to: HR Manager
Job Responsibilities:

- Responsible for all recruitment activities, including but not limited to, screening, interviewing, reference verification and hiring or qualified agents

The Person:

- University graduate
- Possess at least 2 years experience in recruitment
- Preferably with experience gained from a large, multinational, outbound call center
- Possess excellent communication, mentoring and coaching abilities
- Fluent in oral and written American English

Position: **Call Center Account Executives**

Location: Makati City

The Person:

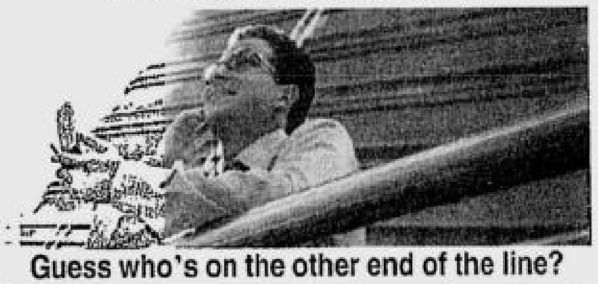
- University graduate
- Possess at least 6 months of experience in outbound telemarketing
- Possess excellent communication skills
- Fluent in oral and written American English

We offer a competitive salary, unlimited commissions, bonuses and a complete benefit package. Our center is built to give you a professional yet relaxed and fun environment.

Come join our pioneer batch and have an excellent opportunity for growth!

E-mail your resumés at: recruiting@vxiusa.com
Or visit us on the web at www.vxiusa.com

A CEO from Peoria, Illinois
is calling about the new flat panel monitor
he bought for his mother.



Guess who's on the other end of the line?

OPERATIONS MANAGER (Code: PDI-OM)

- Must have previous inbound sales experience and managed a group of supervisors / team leaders
- The candidate will be responsible for managing the customer service and call center departments involving all activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customers. He/She must have previous Inbound Sales and Customer Service Management experience.

INBOUND SALES CUSTOMER INTERACTION ASSOCIATES (Code: PDI-ISCIA)

- Must have excellent English communication skills and previous sales experience preferably in a call center
- Telemarketing experience a plus

TEAM CAPTAINS (Code: PDI-TC)

- 1 year previous supervisory experience a must
- Must have excellent English communication skills

FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE (Code: PDI-FDA)

- Must have excellent English communication skills
- Previous reception work experience a must

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT (Code: PDI-AA)

Must be an Accounting graduate with at least 1 year accounting experience
Computer literate

ambergris solutions

Mail your updated resumé with picture
(please indicate the code in the upper right hand corner) to:
ambergris solutions
31/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Or email your resumé to: lisa.areglado@ambergrissolutions.com

Walk-ins accepted Mon-Fri between 9:30am-5:30pm.
Be prepared for immediate interview.

Applicants needed:

Sybase and Powerbuilder Programmers

- Male or Female, 22 years old and above
- At least one (1) year experience with Sybase and Powerbuilder
- Hardworking, dynamic, pleasant, trustworthy and willing to work long hours
- Develop applications based upon detailed written requirements

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé to
boomero168@yahoo.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

WAITRESSES for FINE DINING

Single, w/ experience
& fluent in English, a must

At least 5'4, & must be pretty

For interview, please bring Resumé w/ picture at
Rm 1202 Atlanta Centre, Annapolis, Greenhills
Tel# 722 6664 / 722 6671

U.S. CERTIFIED *Be a Nurse Assistant! One of the fastest growing careers in the U.S. and Canada!*

BASIC NURSE ASSISTANT
TRAINING PROGRAM **3 Months Only!**

- **Patterned after the C.N.A. Training Program of our affiliate school, OMEGA Healthcare Technical School (1717 Howard St., Evanston, Illinois, USA 60202)**
- **Comprehensive THEORY and CLINICAL Training**
- **TESDA Registered - TVET Program Registration NTR0213032018 (First in NCR)**
- **Finish the program in 3 months only!**

REQUIREMENTS:
Submit 2 2"x2" photos
Bring photocopies of HS and college transcripts (at least 1 yr. of college)

LIMITED SLOTS AVAILABLE
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TRAINING AND REVIEW CENTER
31-A Love St., St. Joseph Subd.
Las Piñas, Metro Manila
(bet. Southmall and AlabangTown Center)

ATTENTION: RESIDENTS OF

- ILOCOS
- PANGASINAN
- TARLAC
- ZAMBALES
- BULACAN

Jollibee

In 2002, we were ranked among ***ASIA'S BEST EMPLOYERS****, the only Philippine company in the list, and the* ***#1 EMPLOYER IN THE PHILIPPINES****, as cited by the Far Eastern Economic Review, The Asian Wall Street Journal, and Hewitt Associates. Ranked* ***3rd among ASIA'S MOST ADMIRED COMPANIES*** *in 2000, we were also cited as* ***No. 1 in "OVERALL LEADERSHIP"*** *among the top 10 Philippine companies doing business in Asia.*

Recognized by the World Economic Forum as the ***"GLOBAL GROWTH COMPANY"****, we invite you to join the ranks of highly successful individuals of the No. 1 food chain. We need high caliber individuals to play very critical role in this growth as:*

STORE MANAGERS

Responsible for the over-all management of the store to achieve targeted goals and maintain efficiency and effectiveness of store operations. Male or female; not over 35 years old; Bachelor's degree holder, with at least 3 years managerial and/or 5 years supervisory experience in food service, manufacturing, retail business, hospitals, or other service-oriented establishments and willing to undergo hands-on-training.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

College graduates with at least 1-3 years supervisory experience in food service or service-oriented establishments. We also welcome fresh graduates with above-average scholastic records.

STORE MARKETING OFFICERS (also hiring for Baguio)

The SMART Officer is responsible for planning and implementation of store marketing projects and activities that will: a) increase store sales and b) make service to our customers more personalized. For the position, we need a college graduate, preferably in Mass Communication, Marketing, Management, or any related discipline. He/She should be creative and outgoing, and should possess good human relations and oral and written communication skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS (AA – Store Based)

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for the proper handling of the store's funds which include but not limited to the following: Master and Drawer Change Fund, Petty Cash Fund, Cash Sales, Check Disbursement, Computation of manhours and others. For the position, we need graduates of business courses preferably Accounting or Management; not over 25 years old; with at least 6 months work experience in the same field.

Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules. Successful candidates will undergo a comprehensive training program designed to develop technical and managerial competencies. Hired applicants can look forward to an above industry compensation package, a rewarding career and growth opportunities.

Qualified candidates may send their updated resumé, photocopy of Official Transcript of Records and recent ID photo to:

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
Human Resources Division – North Luzon
9th flr. - Jollibee Plaza
#10 Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

IMPORTANT: APPLICANTS FOR ILOCOS ONLY, PLEASE APPLY PERSONALLY ON MAY 5-10, 2003 FROM 8-5PM AT 9TH FLR OF JOLLIBEE PLAZA.

Alouette
Executive Recruiter

Alouette Consultancy, Inc., an Executive Search firm, is looking for young, dynamic, highly motivated and responsible professional for our client. The client is a multinational company engaged in the veterinary pharmaceutical business, fully dedicated to research, production, and marketing of animal health products.

Position: **FINANCIAL CONTROLLER**

Scope of Work:

- Set-up and implementation of the accounting system in line with the Group Financial policies and structures
- Financial management and local audit to include budget implementation, monitoring of accounting transactions/practices to ensure compliance with company and government policies
- Preparation, control and analysis of monthly, quarterly, & annual financial reports for management use as well as in compliance with government requirements

Candidate Profile:

- CPA with a proven track record of at least 5 years experience in Financial Controllership in a multinational company
- Well exposed to the legal, regulatory and tax environment in the Philippines
- Knowledge of SUN Information system (Business & Accounts), with sound knowledge of Windows packages
- In his early 30's

Interested candidates may send their comprehensive resumes ASAP to:

Email address: jobs@alouetteonline.org
Fax number: 719-4052

INVESTOR - TELEPHONE PROJECT
(Ticao, Masbate)

Looking for investor with P3.5M for the San Jacinto/San Fernando, Ticao, Masbate telephone landline business. (The company will be the PLDT in Ticao, Masbate) Investor should be hands-on manager of the business and preferably from Masbate or Sorsogon.

Business has a 3-4 year pay back period.

INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
Continental Telecom
(02) 728-3000 loc. 31
(0917) 530-9478

SEAOIL GROUP OF COMPANIES

SEAOIL

The leading Filipino petroleum company invites you to be part of a dynamic organization by becoming one of its:

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- ✓ Graduate of Management, Marketing or any business course
- ✓ Male/Female, below 30 years old
- ✓ With good communication skills
- ✓ Service-oriented, flexible, highly-motivated, responsible and organized
- ✓ Preferably with experience in gas stations or food chain operations

TREASURY STAFF **

- ✓ Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- ✓ Female, not more than 28 years old
- ✓ Preferably with at least 1 year experience in bank reconciliation, voucher preparation, etc.
- ✓ Computer literate (Proficient in MS Excel)
- ✓ Good in oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Capable of working under minimum supervision
- ✓ Responsible, hardworking, highly-flexible, and trustworthy

BUSINESS DEV'T OFFICERS

- ✓ Graduate of Engineering (e.g. ChE, ME, IE), Science (e.g. Chem. Physics) or Business (e.g. Marketing, Management, Economics) course
- ✓ Male/Female, below 30 years old
- ✓ Aggressive, highly motivated, result-oriented and resourceful
- ✓ Preferably with experience in industrial selling and consumer products (lubricants)
- ✓ Licensed driver (an advantage)

SERVICE CREW **

- ✓ At least 2nd year college or vocational level
- ✓ Male/Female, not more than 26 years old
- ✓ Presentable appearance, at least 5'4" in height
- ✓ Of good moral character, honest and hardworking

DECK & ENGINE OFFICERS / DECK & ENGINE RATINGS

- ✓ Marine Transportation or Marine Engineering graduate
- ✓ With experience in tankers
- ✓ Complete seaman papers, medically fit, particularly with good eyesight and hearing

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- ✓ Male not more than 35 years old
- ✓ Licensed Electrical Engineer
- ✓ With at least 3 years relevant work experience
- ✓ Familiar with industry standards especially in electrical designs
- ✓ With knowledge in HVAC, motor control and installation in hazardous areas
- ✓ Can work with minimum supervision

WAREHOUSE FOREMAN

- ✓ Graduate of any Engineering course
- ✓ Male not more than 35 years old
- ✓ Familiar with stocks items, stock codes and can identify spare parts or warehouse items
- ✓ With at least three years work experience in the same field
- ✓ Must have good memory and good mechanical reasoning ability
- ✓ Knowledgeable in using database programming
- ✓ Good communication skills and service-oriented

ACCOUNTING STAFFS **

- ✓ Graduate of BS Accountancy
- ✓ Male/Female, not more than 28 years old
- ✓ Preferably with at least 1 year experience in accounting (inventory, audit, financial statements etc.)
- ✓ Can work with minimum supervision
- ✓ Computer literate (Proficient in MS Excel)
- ✓ Responsible, hardworking, highly-flexible, organized and trustworthy

CASHIER **

- ✓ Preferably a graduate of Accountancy, Management or Computer Science
- ✓ Male/Female, below 30 years old
- ✓ With experience in cashiering, customer service or accounting, an advantage

RETAIL ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS OFFICER

- ✓ With experience in handling Marketing requirements for service stations an advantage
- ✓ With very good communication skills

** Fresh and highly trainable graduates may apply.

Send your resumé or bio-data to

SEAOIL PHILIPPINES, INCORPORATED
Human Resources Department
933 Claro Castañeda St., Brgy. Namayan, Mandaluyong City
For appointment and further inquiries, plese contact
531- 90-51 to 55.

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globalstride

Changing the face of customer care

Program Manager (PM–PM)

The Program Manager will be responsible in planning directing and implementing the business initatives of the company. The candidates must have extensive experience in project and client management acquired in customer service or telesales. They must have 2 to 3 years of managerial or supervisory experience in project/account management and possess strong analytical and interpersonal skills. They must be smart, aggressive and are excellent in verbal and written communication. An MBA degree from AIM/ADMU/UP is an advantage. Persons between 25-35 years of age with experience in telesales management are preferred.

Business Development Associate (BDA–EO)

The Business Development Associate will report to the CEO/COO and will assist in a number of projects and tasks including the following: 1) Analytic projects Industry/ Competitive reports and research, preparation of executive meeting/ board presentations; 2) Marketing/Sales Assist in the development of marketing materials and in filling out Request for Information and Proposal documents; and, 3) Operations Working with operations team in CEO/COO sponsored operations projects. Ideal candidates must have 1 to 2 years of experience in marketing, operations or finance role and excellent academic credentials. He/ She must possess some financial modeling capability, excellent communication and writing skills in English and familiarity with MS Office, particularly Excel.

Senior Language Training Specialist (SLTS–Trn)

The candidate will be responsible for designing and conducting courses on Communications, Accent and Grammar. She will also facilitate language- coaching sessions and conduct on-floor language audit to capture lapses in language skill. Ideal candidates are 24-35 year-old graduates of HR, Psychology or Communication Languages, preferably female and single, with at least 2 years experience in corporate training and in teaching TOEFL, TESOL, Grammar and/or English as a Second Language (ESL), and/ or English as a Foreign Language (EFL). Exposure to the call center industry, certification/s as a Language/ Accent/ English trainer, an ability to speak any European language or experience in speech or language coaching are definite advantages.

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resume indicating the position to:
GLOBALSTRIDE CUSTOMER SOLUTIONS
Attn: Human Resources Department
29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark,
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Email: jobs@webservasia.com.ph
Fax No: 911-8854

TSM SHIPPING (PHILS.), INC.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER

- Male, 20 to 24 years of age
- Computer Engineering Graduate
- Hard working and can work w/ minimum supervision

Newly graduates are welcome to apply.
Interested applicants may send their resumé to
cristina.paras@tsmphil.com.ph

Personnel Department
TSM HOUSE
1747 Dian St., Makati City

Hotel PONTE FINO

BATANGAS CITY

A hilltop retreat nestled in the very heart of Batangas City....
here you will find a Filipino Boutique Hotel offering you 60 finely appointed bedrooms.
Banquet and recreational facilities are some features you will discover.
A highly creative and innovative team invites you....

GENERAL MANAGER

Filipino; male or female, 5 years work experience in a resort or hotel; must have held a Senior Management position in a 5 Star resort/hotel. Will consider those who have expertise in other areas of Hotel Management (Rooms Division or F&B Management) Extensive knowledge and understanding of Hotel Operations and of Pre-Opening Set-up.

RESIDENT MANAGER / FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

Extensive background in Front Office Operations and Reservations Systems. Revenue management a must. Astute in identifying opportunities and sensitive to the ever changing needs of the guests.

SALES COORDINATORS

Articulate, persuasive, good organizers and willing to learn. Based in Batangas City. Minimum of 2 years work experience in room/banquet sales.

F&B MANAGER

At least 2 years work experience in a multi-operational type of establishment; food and beverage oriented. Can think on his feet, highly flexible and motivated. Has training and employee development background and is a team builder.

PURCHASING OFFICER

Has at least 2 years work experience as a purchaser in restaurant / hotel operations. Highly resourceful, creative and innovative.

COST CONTROL OFFICER

At least a Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate. Has an eye for detail; well-organized and prior work experience in restaurant operations is an advantage. Has held at least 2 years work experience in cost control / hotel audit in a hotel or restaurant set-up.

CHEF DE CUISINE

Applicant should have training and management skills with hands on experience in a la carte service and banquet preparation. Knowledge in menu planning, menu execution, recipe costing and food presentation. Should have at least 2 years Sous Chef work experience.

SENIOR ENGINEER

Responsible for the hotel's over-all engineering requirement and preventive maintenance. Able to maximize system efficiency, implement and maintain cost effective systems. Preferably with electrical / mechanical engineering as area of expertise.

Applicants must be willing to live in Batangas City or in the nearby areas; computer literacy a must.

Qualified applicants may send their resumé to:
HRD Department – 24th Floor, IBM Plaza Bldg., Eastwood City,
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City

May we request applicants to enclose a 2x2 photo, transcript of records, and certificates of previous employment. May we likewise request a one page essay attachment of your goals in life.

FLORIDA: AVENTURA • WEST PALM BEACH • ATLANTIS • MIAMI (2 HOSPITALS) • FT. PIERCE • MARGATE • LOXAHATCHEE • OKEECHOBEE • PORT ST. LUCIE • TAMARAC • PLANTATION (2 HOSPITALS) • SANFORD • FT. WALTON BEACH • PANAMA CITY • LAKE CITY • JACKSONVILLE (2 HOSPITALS) • GAINESVILLE • OCALA (2 HOSPITALS) • ORANGE PARK • ORLANDO • TALLAHASSEE • NICEVILLE • PENSACOLA • BRADENTON • BRANDON • NEW PORT RICHEY • SARASOTA • ST. PETERSBURG (3 HOSPITALS) • ENGLEWOOD • PORT CHARLOTTE • FORT MYERS (2 HOSPITALS) • LARGO • SPRING HILL • HUDSON • SUN CITY CENTER • **TEXAS**: PASADENA • WEBSTER • ALVIN • CONROE • CORPUS CHRISTI (4 HOSPITALS) • HOUSTON (5 HOSPITALS) • KINGWOOD • TEXAS CITY • MCALLEN • BROWNSVILLE • EL PASO (3 HOSPITALS) • DENTON • DALLAS (2 HOSPITALS) • ARLINGTON • IRVING • LEWISVILLE • PLANO • MCKINNEY • N. RICHLAND HILLS • FT. WORTH • AUSTIN (7 HOSPITALS) • ROUND ROCK (2 HOSPITALS) • **NEVADA**: LAS VEGAS (2 HOSPITALS) • **LOUISIANA**: MARKSVILLE • NEW IBERIA • NEW ORLEANS (2 HOSPITALS) • METAIRIE • COVINGTON • LAFAYETTE (2 HOSPITALS) • MONROE • OAKDALE • ALEXANDRIA • MAMOU • WINNIFIELD • **NORTH CAROLINA**: DURHAM (2 HOSPITALS) • RALEIGH • **ARIZONA**: PHOENIX (5 HOSPITALS)

Nurses for the USA!

Take your pick. With multiple locations to choose from, HCCA International can help make your dream of living and working in the United States a reality. We want you to be a part of our Family. Since 1973, tens of thousands of healthcare professionals have secured employment through HCCA International. Absolutely, Positively, No Fees.

To qualify, you must have at least one year of recent experience in a 200+ bed hospital and be fluent in English. Required documents include: resume, college diploma, transcript of records, board ratings, board certificate, PRC ID, updated employment certificate, birth certificate, passport and marriage certificate, if any, and any results of CGFNS/NCLEX /TOEFL / TSE / IELTS exams, plus 4 pcs. 2x2 colored photos. **Deadline** for submission of application is **May 9, 2003** for interviews in **Manila**.

HCCA INTERNATIONAL

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Apply at: GOVERNMENT PLACEMENT BRANCH • LEFT WING, WINDOWS O AND P • GROUND FLR., POEA BUILDING, EDSA COR. ORTIGAS AVENUE • MANDALUYONG CITY or your local POEA representative office

CEBU INTERVIEWS: May 7 & 8, 2003
Please file your application with the POEA officer in charge, 3rd flr. Gemini Building, 719 MJ Cuenca Ave. Cebu City (032) 233-4190, by May 6, 2003. Or with your local POEA representative in the region.

St. Louis College
VALENZUELA

We are looking for competent instructors with Masteral units for each of the following subjects:

Christian Formation, HRM, English and Computer Science

Apply in person with credentials at:
#005 Maysan Rd. Valenzuela City
Tel. Nos. 292-0481 • www.slcv.edu.ph

DESIGNS LIGNA

WE NEED A PROFESSIONAL RETAIL MANAGER!

At Designs Ligna stores our people have taste and style. You will need to have both -- *plus* mature leadership and retail experience to lead our team.

E-mail your resumés to dlignahires@skyinet.net

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PEOPLESUPPORT

Founded in the USA in 1998, PeopleSupport is a leading international call center that provides superior customer service via phone, email and chat, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. ***Today, in less than five years, our global network is composed of a corporate headquarters in Los Angeles, US call center in St. Louis, Missouri, and of course, the Asia Pacific Headquarters in Manila.***

eReps™

are PeopleSupport's customer service representatives who provide customer service via email, chat and phone on a 24x7 basis. QUALIFICATIONS: Four-year college degree, strong customer service orientation. excellent English communication skills, and good typing skills. Internet savvy. Willing to work shifts.

Travel eReps™

2+ years' experience in airline reservations (preferably international), or hotel/car rental reservations

or

Tourism / HRM graduate, with experience in the hospitality industry, preferably in reservations.

Sales eReps™

College graduates with experience or keen interest in sales, closing orders and/or telemarketing

Project eReps™

Those who are looking to work as an eRep on a short-term basis.

We focus on creating a supportive environment for our eReps™ so we can retain the best talent. We maintain a positive culture through motivation and retention programs, offer a dynamic and state-of-the-art work environment, casual dress code, professional development and training, and a competitive compensation and benefits package.

SEND YOUR RESUMES TO

applicants@peoplesupport.com

12TH-14TH FL. PHILAMLIFE TOWER, PASEO DE ROXAS. MAKATI

The Industry's Best Kept Secret is out!
Convergys Corporation is here.

Get ready to discover the joys of working in the world's largest call center company.

Convergys, the world's largest call center company, is the global leader in integrated billing, employee care, and customer care services. Our fully integrated multi-channel customer contact centers offer solutions that use the latest technologies to enhance the human touch.

We serve global leaders in telecommunications, internet, cable and broadband services, technology, financial services and other industries in more than 40 countries, adding value to their customer relationships billions of times a year.

Enhanced customer relationship is critical to the success of the companies we service. Their Convergys experience remains a significant contributor to this objective.

Convergys manages revenues in excess of US$2.29 billion and employs over 44,000 people in 45 call centers across US, Canada, Europe, UK, Latin America, and India.

The Makati call center, the first of several centers in the Philippines, is now launching. The center will cater to many Fortune 500 companies around the globe. We are looking for:

Customer Care Representatives: You should be a graduate with excellent English communication skills, both oral and written. You must have basic computer knowledge. You should be willing to work extended hours and on night shifts. You must have the ability and desire to handle customers with care. New graduates are welcome to apply.

Team Leaders: You should have 2 to 3 years experience in an international call center and should have the ability to manage your team effectively. You should be a leader, a motivator, provide inspiration and elicit confidence from your team.

Accent and Culture Trainers: You should have 2 to 3 years experience in conducting training on accent neutralization and culture. You should be willing to work extended hours and on shifts. You must have the ability to impart knowledge and provide coaching to others.

Why Convergys? We promote an environment that attracts, develops and rewards highly effective people. We are acknowledged as one of the best companies to work for. We offer excellent growth opportunities and an attractive remuneration.

Please email your resume with contact details to

cps.recruiting@convergys.com

within 7 days.

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One of "America's Most Admired Companies" - Fortune Magazine

www.convergys.com

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
The *Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme* is an integrated development project of the Department of Agriculture jointly funded by the Government of the Philippines and the European Union.

CASCADE

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

INFORMATION OFFICER

(Information Officer III, SG 18)

The Information Officer III will be expected to take responsibility of all CASCADE Information Communication, Representation and Press Relation Activities. This position will be co-terminus with the project, i.e. until July 2004.

As such, the interested candidate will have to satisfy the minimal conditions:

1. Bachelor of Science in Information Communication, Information Technology or Mass Communication
2. A comprehensive knowledge of recent Windows Operating System and MS Office software will have to be demonstrated
3. Three (3) years professional experience in Mass Communication, Development Communication, Public Relations or Information Communication (relevant experience from Foreign Assisted Project will be a plus)

Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by most recent Curriculum Vitaé to the address below, not later than 12 May 2003:

The Project Co-Directors
DA-CASCADE
Cavadeco Bldg., Bonfal West
3700 Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
And/or Fax at: (078) 805-3611
E-mail: cascade_erp@yahoo.co.uk

Note: This ad supersedes one published on February 2003. As such, previous candidates need not re-apply. Only short-listed candidates will be responded to.

NIPPON HOUSING PHILIPPINES INC.

is in need of:

PROPERTY MANAGER

Will be responsible for the overall management and administration of a property. Handles functional areas which includes administration, finance, technical services, safety and security, tenant relations, housekeeping and insurance. M/F, preferably graduate of Mechanical, Electrical, Civil Engineering or Accounting/Management. Ideal candidates must have at least 8 years managerial experience in property management and should possess excellent public relations/customer service orientation as well as oral & written communication skills. Exposure in condominium set up and knowledge in condominium laws are required.

PROPERTY ACCOUNTANT

Responsible for the conduct of property based accounting scope particularly preparation and submission of financial reports and maintenance of accounting records. Must have at least 2 years actual experience in all areas of general accounting, specifically financial statements preparation and bookkeeping. Background in condominium accounting is an advantage.

Due to urgency of need, interested applicants may personally submit or fax their comprehensive resumé and recent ID picture and other credentials to:

NIPPON HOUSING PHILIPPINES INC.
Unit 404-405 LaO Center, 1000 Pasay Rd. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. 894-2005 Fax No. 894-2020
E-mail: nippon@qinet.net

Strengthening the Foundations of Lasting Peace and Development in Southern Philippines - PHI/01/001

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is inviting applicants who can qualify for National UN Volunteer posts for the Government of the Philippines-United Nations/Multi-Donor Program (GoP-UN/MDP3), a peace and development programme in Southern Philippines.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Reporting to the Area Coordinator and province of assignment, the staff shall:

1) Provide technical assistance to the Volunteers for Information and Development Assistance (VIDA), Peace and Development Advocates (PDAs), Community Development Managers, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), People's Organizations (POs) and the Local Government Units (LGUs) in community development planning and investment programming, resource mobilization, networking and linkaging, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the Peace and Development Communities (PDCs) and other post-conflict areas;
2) Facilitate convergence of development assistance from GOP-UN/MDP3 Government Organizations (GOs), NGOs and ODAs in the PDCs and other post-conflict areas;
3) Facilitate promotion of the culture of volunteerism by organizing more volunteer activities in their area of assignment in collaboration with the UNV County Office in Manila;
4) Prepare periodic reports to the Area Coordinator relative to the GOP-UN/MDP3 and other development activities in their respective areas of assignment; and
5) Perform other tasks assigned by the Area Coordinator.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in social-science disciplines; minimum two (2) years experience in community development in Peace and Development Communities (PDCs) and other post-conflict areas in Mindanao; experience on participatory development planning process and governance, with good knowledge on culture of peace and traditional systems of resolving conflicts in the PDCs, networking and linkaging, right-based and results-based management, project cycle management (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation); and must be computer-literate.

Preferably applicants should come from Mindanao, are familiar with the culture, history and current situation in Southern Philippines, and able to converse and write in any of the local dialects. All application letters with comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before **11 May 2003**. Address applications to the United Nations Volunteers, Room 210, 2/F NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail); Fax no. +63-2-812-8657; email to beatriz.fernandez@undp.org.

ALLEGRO PACIFIC PHILS., INC. is an ISO 9001:2000 certified manufacturer-exporter of bags to top retailers in America for more than a decade now. We have recently opened our door to local market and is looking for:

COMMISSION AGENTS/DISTRIBUTORS

FOR CEBU & DAVAO

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

LETTER OF INTENT, BUSINESS / PERSONAL PROFILE, BANK & TRADE REFERENCES.
THOSE WITH CURRENT BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH DEPARTMENT STORES AND RETAILERS WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY.

For more details & inquiries, contact:
Mr. Fed P. Sapitan – fed@allegrophil.com
Ms. Marthie R. Castillo – marthie@allegrophil.com

Allegro Pacific Phils., Inc.
Multinational Vill. Access Road, Multinational Village, Parañaque City, 1700
Tel# 822 36 01 to 05 Fax# 822 36 08

JOB OPENING

We are in need of additional manpower to service our growing number of clients. Qualified applicants shall undergo an extensive training program to prepare them for high class service to foreign and local tourists.

DRIVERS — Age 25 to 30 years old, Male; at least 2nd year college; Speak English and other languages (is an advantage); Familiar with Metro Manila and other Luzon provinces; Honest, trustworthy, reliable and willing to be assigned on shifting schedule.

ACCOUNTING CLERK — Age 22 to 30 years old; Male or female; Single; College graduate, computer literate and with at least 1 year experience in billing and collection.

MARKETING ASSISTANT — Age 20 to 25 years old, female, single; With pleasing personality, smart, attentive; College graduate; Computer literate, at least 1 year experience in customer relations and willing to be assigned on shifting schedule.

Submit Biodata, 2 pcs 2 x 2 picture with white background, photocopy of birth certificate including children, Marriage contract (if married), Driver's license, Drug Test Certificate (for those applying as Driver), NBI Clearance, Brgy. Clearance and Certificate from Previous Employers. Qualified applicants are requested to report for preliminary screening on 10th of May, 2003:

ABC Car Rentals & Tourist Transport, Inc.
348 Maysilo Street, Brgy. Plainview, Mandaluyong City

TANGGOL KALIKASAN
a public interest environmental law office
is in need of an

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MAIN TASKS

Responsible for the daily management of the office
Assist in Project Development matters
Has pro-active role in office policy development & implementation
Perform liaison work for and with the Board of Trustees
Prepare documentation of office meetings
Coordinate activities of staff & TK offices
Assist in liaison work

Qualifications

Organized and self-motivated
good communication skills in English & Filipino
can work with minimum supervision
computer literate

Submit letter of intent and resumé by May 5, 2003.

Tanggol Kalikasan
Rm. 403 CRM III Building,
106 Kamias Road, Quezon city
Tel: (02)9255611-12; (02)4348734;
Telefax: (02)4349141
E-mail: sabyte@i-manila.com.ph

The WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT

a Project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP-PC, in close collaboration with its Partners, DOH Centers for Health Development, LGUs and NGOs, work to improve the health status of women by using community health development techniques which enable women at the barangay level to identify and articulate their health needs, as well as be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health

The Project is currently seeking a highly qualified and experienced

Applied Research Specialist

for its office in Manila

Qualifications:

The person we are seeking will have science/social science qualifications with applied research units, preferably at a masters level. They will also be able to demonstrate that they have extensive knowledge and experience in research design, development and implementation, as well as in data based monitoring and evaluation utilizing both qualitative and quantitative techniques. Experience in working with community based programs and projects would be an advantage.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A "HANDS ON" RESEARCH POSITION

ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE SPECIFIED ABOVE SHOULD APPLY.

Qualified and interested Applicants should submit their letter of response together with a comprehensive resume by email or fax on or before 09 May 2003, to

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 A. Mabini Street, Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: fad-whsm@pacific.net.ph

A PROGRESSIVE GROUP
OF COMPANIES
URGENTLY NEEDS THE
FOLLOWING:

GENERAL MANAGER

With 10 years experience and thorough knowledge in gym and physical fitness business, pleasant personality, proficient in English

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

With 5 years experience in high-rise building management, preferably accounting major.

SEC TO THE PRESIDENT – ACCOUNTING CLERK

Preferably BS Accountancy

See LOBBY GUARD
PROVIDENCE TOWER
2471 COR. LEON GUINTO
& ESTRADA STS.,
MALATE, MANILA
(2-5 PM MON TO FRI)

A US based IT company urgently needs the following as part of its on-going expansion.

WEB DESIGNERS/ CARTOON ANIMATORS

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in COE, ECE, Fine Arts or any IT related fields.
- 1-2 yrs. working experience in Web Developing and Graphic Design.
- Basic knowledge in Javascript, CSS and FTP
- Proficient in Photoshop & Dreamweaver is a must.
- Possess excellent creative skills in graphic design, lay-out and animation.
- Knowledge in 2D, 3D and Cartoon animation is a plus.
- Must have an excellent command of oral and written English skills.
- Must submit a sample web portfolio (required).
- Must be willing to work on shifting schedules.
- Proactive, trainable and a team player.
- Male, at least 22 yrs. old.

Please apply personally or email your updated resumé with your latest 2x2 picture at:

TULIN ONLINE, INC.
Unit 802, 8/F The Centerpoint Building
Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 635-7805; Fax No. 635-6956
Email Address: raymund@tulinonline com

A **Rural Bank** in Quezon City
is in need of

GENERAL MANAGER

- Male/Female, 35-40 years old;
- Graduate of four-year business/finance course;
- Masters degree in Bus. Admin. an advantage;
- With banking experience in supervisory/ managerial capacity;
- With excellent written & oral skills;
- Good people skills;
- Honest, hardworking & highly motivated.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

- Male/Female, 30-35 years old;
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant;
- With experience in bank audit in supervisory capacity;
- With excellent written & oral skills.
- Honest, hardworking & highly motivated.

Apply at #9 Capricorn St., Carmel V. Subd.,
Banlat, Tandang Sora, Quezon City
Tel. No. 930-4672/77

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VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Médecins Sans Frontiéres (MSF), a non-profit, non-governmental international humanitarian organization accredited by the Department of Health whose objective is to bring medical aid to populations in crisis, is now in need of staff for a NUTRITION – WATER SANITATION (WatSan) – ADVOCACY project in Malabon City:

For the Nutrition Component – Employment date: Immediate

(2) **Nurses** – Registered Nurse with clinical background, with strong interest in poor community project specifically children, experienced and knowledgeable in community participatory approaches.

For WatSan Component – Employment date: June 2003

(1) **Technical Assistant** – Licensed Civil Engineer; minimum two years experience in a construction company; relevant experience in Water and Sanitation project preferred; with driving experience and valid license.

(1) **Nurse** – Registered Nurse, with strong background (formal training or work experience) on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) development implementation; with strong interest in poor community project, able to work in collaboration with partners.

(1) **Advocacy Officer** – Degree in Social Science or related discipline; experience in participatory development planning process and governance, networking and linkaging; highly developed interpersonal skills.

(1) **Social Worker** – Registered Social Worker; Experienced and knowledgeable in community participatory approaches; strong interest in poor community projects.

(1) **Community Organizer** – A degree in Social Science or related discipline; knowledge and skills in organizing community level training activities; excellent working relationship with collaborative partners;

(1) **Secretary/Receptionist** – Professional Secretary; with experience in handling petty cash; excellent interpersonal skills; very organized; dynamic; decisive and capable of taking initiative.

(1) **Driver** – Professional driver with valid license; familiar with Metro Manila routes; good communication and organizational skills

General Qualifications for the above posts:

- Excellent communication skills in both oral and written English
- Team player and ability to interact with people at different levels
- Humanitarian Spirit
- Computer literate
- Experience in a multicultural setting an advantage

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with recent 2 x 2 photo, copy of diploma and transcript of records must be *mailed* and addressed to:

Mr. Roland Schwanke
Head of Mission
Médecins sans Frontiéres – Switzerland
508 Camia St., Palm Village
Estrella, Makati City

We will not entertain walk-in applicants. Only short listed candidates will be notified.

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new jobs

- ▷ **Program Analyst**
  Intranet Business Systems, Inc.
- ▷ **Asus Server Channel Manager**
  Banbros Commercial, Inc.
- ▷ **Computer Software Systems Salesman**
  Datalogic Systems Corporation
- ▷ **Analyst / Developer**
  Intellequity, Corp.
- ▷ **Consultants / Developer**
  Equicom Systems Management, Inc.

Apply Online Now!!

Register at **www.itpros.ph.**

IT JOBS. IT BUSINESS. IT EDUCATION
Showcasing the best of Philippine ICT.

Kodak

KODAK is the World's Leader in Imaging.

For more than 120 years, KODAK has defined the world of imaging. Now, it is paving the way for infoimaging—where image science and information technology converge in ways that were never before possible. This represents the evolution of communication and commerce through pictures— both moving and still, enabled by technology, creating significant new revenue and market opportunities for businesses around the world.

We are in need a highly motivated individual to join our dynamic organization.

Account Manager Entertainment Imaging

Job Requirements:

- Computer proficient especially in Windows environment (MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Has good financial and analytical skills
- Has good presentation skills and fluent in both oral and written communications
- Creative and dynamic, and possess initiative and good independent judgment
- Pleasant, can immediately establish rapport with a broad base of people

Account Manager- Health Imaging

Job Requirements:

- College graduate of an Applied Science (e.g. Radiography), Business or Marketing course
- Has at least 3 years sales experience preferably in sales of medical equipments or diagnostics
- Knowledge in the field of radiology is a strong advantage
- Preferably knowledgeable in computers, both software (Windows applications) and hardware (networking and digital peripherals)
- Has excellent interpersonal skills and can immediately establish rapport with a broad range of people
- Fluent in both oral and written communications

Account Manager- Document Imaging

Job Requirements:

- A graduate of Sales, Business, Marketing or any other related course
- Has at least 3 years experience in account management preferably in IT environment and in sales of IT solutions
- Has a wide base of network preferably in local utility companies
- Computer proficient and with good knowledge in computer software or programming
- Has excellent interpersonal skills and can immediately establish rapport with a broad range of people
- Fluent in both oral and written communications

Customer Service Representative

Job Requirements:

- A graduate of accounting or business course with accounting units
- Analytical and mathematically-inclined
- Meticulous and has good attention to details
- Fluent in both oral and written communication
- Has strong interpersonal skills and pleasing personality
- Working experience in credit/ accounting field will be a plus!

Also open to fresh graduates.

Administrative Assistant

Job Requirements:

- A graduate of any business course
- computer proficient especially in Windows environment (MS word, excel, powerpoint)
- has at least two years experience in office operations (report preparation and organization, coordination of sales orders and logistics)
- Has excellent interpersonal skills and can immediately establish rapport with a broad range of people
- Fluent in both oral and written communications

Also open to fresh graduates.

Kodak is full of diverse opportunities for continually building and reinventing your career.

The best time to join our company is now!

Send your comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 Kodak picture to:

KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD.
Human Resources Department
2247 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

Deadline of submission of applications will be on **May 7, 2003.**

Rx MEDICard

One of the countries leading Health Maintenance Organization in the Philippines, is in need of:

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - ASSISTANT MANAGER

Qualifications:

- The candidate must be a graduate of Medicine and a licensed physician.
- He/She must have an experience or background in an HMO setting.
- Must be highly analytical; good grasp of statistical principles and analytical processes.
- Must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Computer literate especially in MS Excel.

Applicants are required to mail a copy of their resumé, 2x2 photo, transcript of records, PRC license to:

The Human Resources Department
MEDICard Philippines Inc.
8F The World Center
# 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati City
E-mail address: fnbongalon@medicardphils.com

ONE OF THE
WORLD'S
LARGEST
INTERNATIONAL
BANKS . . .

need

Corporate Banking Staff

Preferably a CPA

Operations Staff

Administrative Staff

Applicants must be business-related course graduates, not over 25 years old, computer literate, with excellent communication skills, and able to work under minimum supervision. Send application letter, curriculum vitaé, transcript of records and colored photo to Box No. MK-105 c/o Classified Ads Dept., PDI, G/F Atrium of Makati, Makati City.

CUI
EJERCITO
ABRERA
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TEVE
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SANTA ARIA

Need a career lift?

Ask your CEO mentors and career experts

Career Development Strategies
May 27, 28 and 29, 2003 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, HV de la Costa St., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

May 27, 2003 (Tuesday)

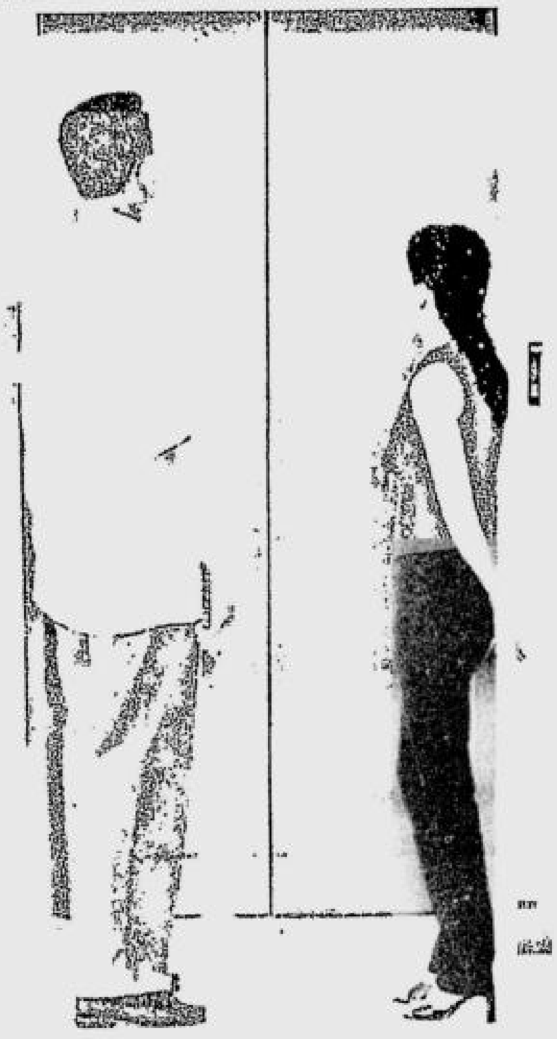
Managing Your Career to the Top
Lecture:
Dr. Josie O. Santamaria,
President, Career Systems, Inc,

May 28, 2003 (Wednesday)

Keeping High Flyers in the Company
Lecture:
Ms. Thelma Geraldine A. Baricaua,
Sr. Consultant, Career Systems, Inc.

May 29, 2003 (Thursday)

Developing the Global Pinoy
Lecture:
Mr. Jorge G. Santamaria,
Managing Director, Career Systems,Inc.



CEO Forum (second part of each session) to be facilitated by CSI senior consultants, Ms. Myra S. Lapus and Ms. Carmen M. Gonzalez with at least two CEOs per session:

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JOB MARKET

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How to ensure success in your new job

By Paul Heng

CONGRATULATIONS, you have just confirmed the acceptance of your new job offer! After you are done with the celebrations, do spend some time to plan for a successful and smooth start in your new challenge. Here are some tips for you.

There are three areas you need to focus on to ensure success in your new job. The first few months in a new position will be crucial. In your early weeks, you should have three main aims:

1. To build good relationships, especially with your boss

Establishing an effective working relationship with your boss is one of your main priorities. Quickly pick up his or her working style and see how you can adapt yours to meet his or her needs and expectations.

Look back at the information you need to establish about your job. Be proactive in planning some goals and setting an agenda to discuss with your boss. Fix a date for an early review.

2. To gain acceptance in your team

You will probably find your new team welcoming and supportive. However, if you are replacing someone they particularly liked, they may be suspicious and uncommunicative. Stay positive and allow time to get to know each other.

Your team will be seeking reassurance that you will not 'rock the boat' too much and yet have something to offer. Be outward looking and show an interest in what people do. Be seen as someone who looks beyond your own work. Avoid talking about your old job: colleagues will soon retire of constant comparisons or hearing how good or bad people were at the old place!

3. To perform effectively

The selection process you have just successfully navigated your way through will have given you an insight into what your responsibilities will be and your reporting structure. However, initial impressions from interviews are rarely fully accurate or complete.

Do make conscientious efforts to clarify:

- Your precise responsibilities, and what are the key deliverables expected of you during your probation period. It is important that you put these down on paper and have your boss confirm them. If you are on a probation of longer than three months, say six, it is advisable that you review the responsibilities at the end of the first quarter. Business priorities change, and these days, they do change very regularly. So, make sure the "goal posts" have not shifted. It is far better to be sure than be surprised with a probation-extension or worse, a termination of your employment.
- The expectations of your manager and any other stakeholders whose objectives you are supporting.
- Your decision-making authority.
- Your budgetary and management responsibilities.
- The structure of your department and its place in the organisational hierarchy. How is your function or department is perceived within the organisation? Is it held in high regard, and if not, why not? Can you add value here to change negative perceptions? If yes, volunteer to do so, even if this may not be your key area of responsibility. Always be ready to take on more responsibilities. Not only will you gain more experience, you will be perceived positively.
- Lateral lines of responsibility and liaison
- Key internal customers and suppliers you need to establish effective working-relationships with.

In addition to the foregoing, it would be very useful for you to find a mentor or sponsor who can give you some of the 'softer' information, or use your networking skills to cultivate useful contacts both inside and outside the organisation. Other people who have recently joined may provide useful insights.

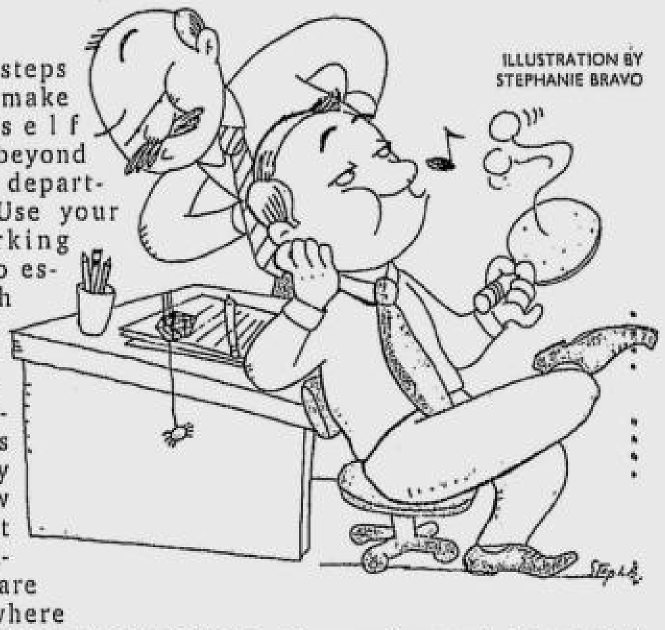
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Take steps also to make yourself known beyond your department. Use your networking skills to establish key contacts in other divisions and try to draw out what their priorities are and where any conflicts between your departments may arise. Never make assumptions that may prove to be detrimental to your success.

Research has proven that a very high percentage of new hires fail in their probation period, not because of under performance but because of two other reasons. First, they fail to clarify role expectations and second, they fail to spend time building relationships. Make sure you will not be part of those statistics.

(Mr. Heng is managing director of the Singapore-based NeXT Career Consulting and founding president of the Asian Association of Career Management Professionals. For more information, visit www.nextcareer.net *and* www.aacmp.org.sg.*)*

How to conquer procrastination

By Ernie O. Cecilia

HAVE you ever wondered why so many things don't get done in this world? Its not because people don't have the intention or the capability to do those things. It's usually because they tend to procrastinate. (In fact, I could have written this article earlier if I didn't procrastinate, too.)

Do you remember Rhett Buttler's famous one-liner in the old movie 'Gone with the Wind,' "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" and Scarlet O'Hara's reaction, "I'll think about it tomorrow?"

The Scarlet O'Hara syndrome has infected a lot more people than the virus of the SARS had. In fact, some psychologists think that procrastination, or putting off to some future time what could be done now, is a personality disorder, if not just plain laziness. This malady usually afflicts unsuccessful people.

Techniques

The successful ones have mastered the art of setting deadlines for themselves, working on their priorities, having a "To do" list, going after easier jobs first that give them momentum to take on bigger jobs, and even "biting the bullet" or doing unpleasant things that need to be done.

Are there techniques used by successful people to keep them from procrastinating? Try some of the following tips.

Salami technique. If you procrastinate because the activity is too big for you, slice it into smaller tasks, just like a salami. Then start doing some tasks one after the other until you get the hang of it. Before you notice it, you might have completed several small tasks that add up to the one big activity that you thought was impossible to do before you tried this technique suggested by Edwin Bliss.

Swiss cheese technique. If a job overwhelms you because of its enormity, bore small holes into big jobs until the big job is over and done with. Like the salami technique, the "Swiss cheese" technique by Alan Lakein will give you the confidence to take on big jobs by taking it in small doses at a time. Once you develop this technique, no job will be too big for you. Then, you won't procrastinate anymore.

Humility works

Humble yourself. Sometimes, one has to go through a humbling experience in order to overcome procrastination. Here's what I usually do whenever I notice that I keep putting off something important.

For every important item that I have been putting off, I make two lists. The first list is about all the good things that will result if I do what I have been putting off. I usually do this list with all the optimism I can muster. Then I make the second list about all the conceivable reasons why I should not do it. I usually let my creative juices freely flow to let me invent all the alibis I can think of. After staring at the two lists, it usually dawns on me that I would be an incorrigible procrastinator if I don't do it. I see all the opportunities going down the drain and I end up humbling myself,and pressuring myself to do that important thing.

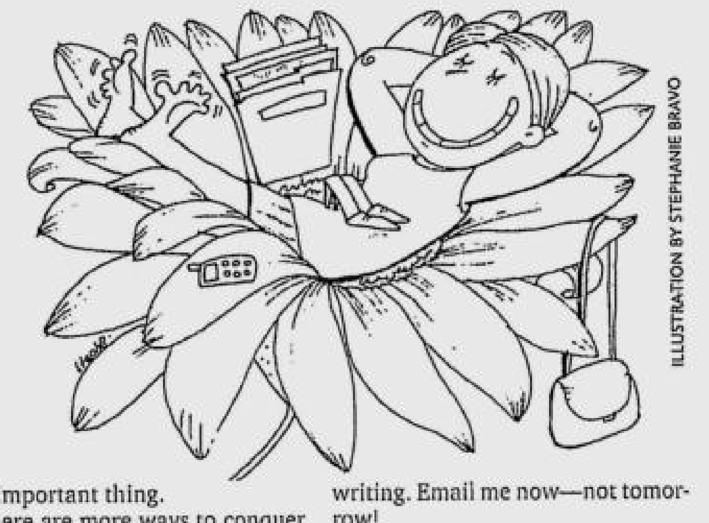
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

There are more ways to conquer procrastination, but try these simple techniques first. Who knows, they might work for you. If the last technique does not work for you, email me now—you could be the subject I'm looking for in a case study I'm writing. Email me now—not tomorrow!

(Mr. Cecilia is president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a consulting firm specializing in business and human resource management. He can be reached at erniec@edsamail. com.ph*)*

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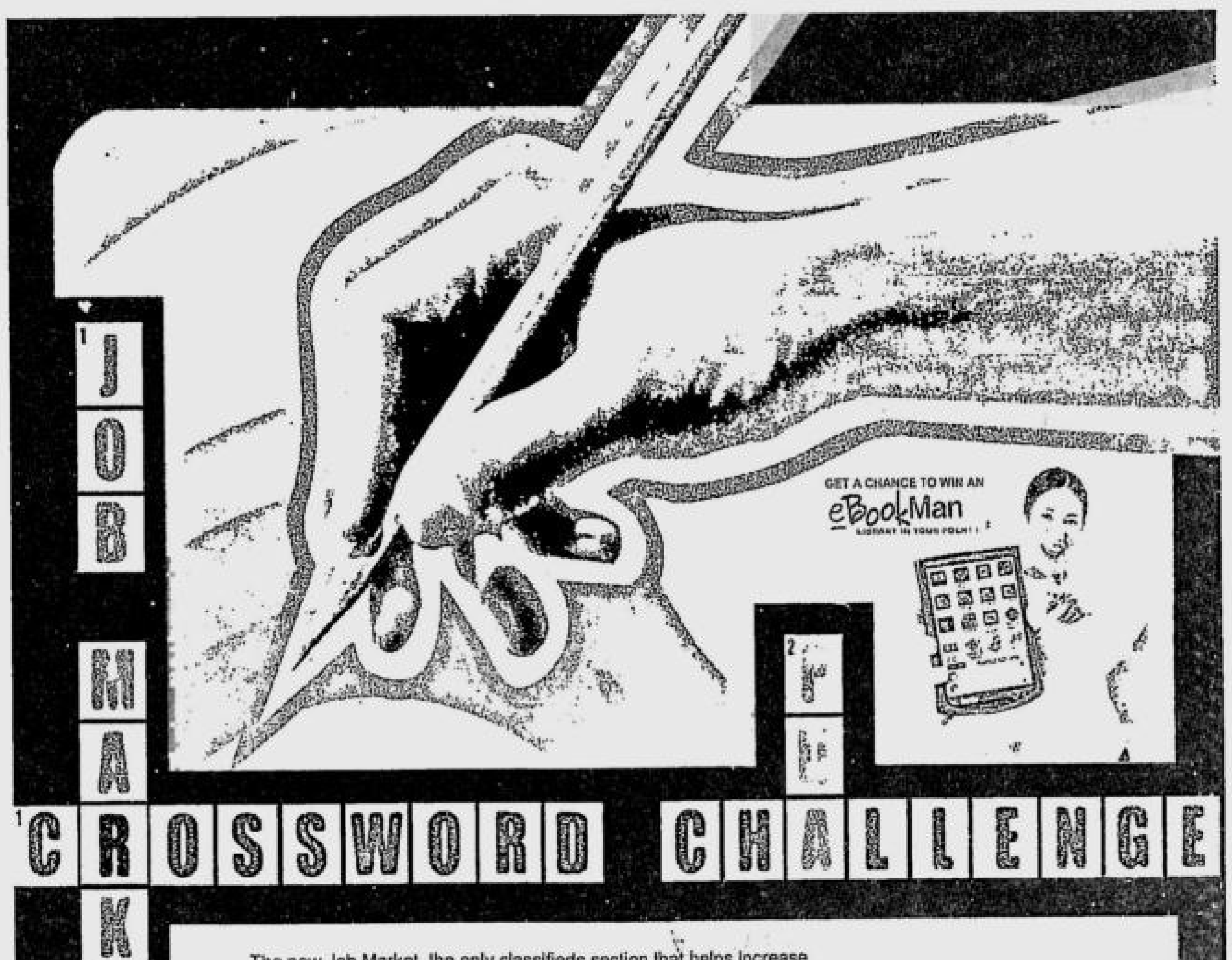
You have more chances to win cool prizes. Keep on reading Job Market every Sunday and join the Job Market Crossword Challenge. Send your entries to Inquirer office & branches



The new Job Market, the only classifieds section that helps increase your chances of getting hired, now gives you a chance to win a trendy eBookMan -- a handheld multi-media device that stores library of ebooks, music, audio-books, daily news & other essential information which are retrievable at your fingertips...anytime. It also functions as a PDA and voice recorder. From April 20 to July 06, a crossword puzzle will appear every Sunday in the Job Market. Fill up the puzzle completely and correctly using the clues given. Every week, five (5) winners will be drawn in which each will receive gift certificates to reputable computer schools for courses that will boost your credentials when you apply for a job. All the weekly winners will then vie for an eBookMan in the two major grand draws on May 12 and July 6. So are you up to the challenge? Read the new Job Market Crossword Challenge!

Get more chances to win online! Simply visit www.jobmarketonline.com where the puzzle is posted from Monday to Thursday. Just print, fill up and send as many entries as you wish!

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. The promotion is open to all Inquirer Job Market readers nationwide as well as visitors of jobmarketonline. com.
2. For 12 consecutive Sundays (from April 20 to June 29) every Job Market issue will have a crossword puzzle cum entry form published on the section's 2nd page asking questions about the job placement ads and the editorial content of the Job Market. Each week will feature a different set of questions and puzzle.
3. Readers are tasked to complete the puzzle using the job placement ads and articles that came out in the same issue as clues, and write their name, address, telephone number and signature on the space provided for in the entry form.
4. The same puzzle, questions and entry form can also be found in the jobmarketonline website from Monday to Thursday of the following week
5. To join through jobmarketonline, visitors must print out the puzzle/entry form found on the website and fill it up manually. Only printed versions of the said puzzle/entry form are valid. No photocopies allowed.
6. Puzzle/entry forms (newspaper cut-outs for print entries and computer print outs for website entries) must then be placed inside a white legal size envelope and mailed to "The Job Market Crossword Challenge" c/o Job Market, Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Avenue cor. Yague and Mascardo sts., 1230 Makati City. Each complete puzzle/entry form serves as a single official entry during which the winners (5) will be drawn every week to receive the following:
   Gift certificates from any of the following computer schools: NIIT, STI, Informatics, Genetics and New Horizon.
7. Only entries with complete & correct puzzles are considered valid. All entries for the week (provincial and GMA) must be received by 5pm Friday of the following week to qualify for the weekly draw to be held every Monday after the submission deadline
8. There would be a total of twelve (12) weekly draws divided into two (2) phases, each comprise of four (4) the other seven (7) and one (1) grand draw. Raffle draw details are as follows

DATE INCLUSIVE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	GRAND DRAW	VENUE
April 20 to May 4	May 9	May 12	Glorietta
May 18 to June 29	July 4	July 6	PDI Office

9. An individual may send more than one (1) entry (for both print and online entries) but may only win once in every weekly draw. Non-winning entries for each particular draw will be disqualified in the succeeding dras. All weekly draws will be held at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office at 3.00 pm in the presence of a DTI rep.
10. Only the thirty (30) weekly draw winners will qualify for each of the 2 grand draws wherein one winner will receive the prize.
11. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
12. Winners will be notified via registered mail and telephone. Name of the weekly winners will be published in the Job Market and posted in jobmarket online every week.
13. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and valid ID (driver's license, TIN,SSS or Passport)
14. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI
15. Employees & staff of PDI, their ad agency & their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity & affinity are disqualified from joining the promo

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Qualifications:

- Graduate of Computer Engineering or ECE
- Must have 1-2 years experience in computer networking
- Proficient with E-mail and Internet Administration
- Knowledge in Windows NT 4/2000

Responsibilities:

- Administers E-mail and internet clients on Linux Server
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- Troubleshoots complex network and infrastructures issues
- Performs network cabling, termination, testing and installation of Network interface cards
- Maintains, configures and upgrades Windows NT 4/2000

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Qualifications:

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- With excellent customer relations skills
- Familiar with the street network of Metro Manila

Responsibilities:

- Shall visit and monitor agents' sales performance
- Handles inquiries and complaints of agents

BILLING CLERK

Qualifications:

- College graduate with background in Accounting or Finance
- 1 year experience in similar field

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the preparation of advertising tearsheets and attachment of same with advertising invoices

ADVERTISING PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Knowledge in Computer Office and Layouting software operations
- College graduate
- Must have hands-on experience in proofreading and layouting pages/advertisements

Responsibilities:

- Shall proofread and design layout of the newspaper pages and advertisements
- Entertains supplement/People, Events and Products editorial inquiries

RECORDS CLERK
Advertising

Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably with background in Marketing or Advertising
- 1 year experience in similar job

Responsibilities:

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- Implements all memos regarding cancellations, transfers, change of schedules and sizes

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Qualifications:

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Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

Strengthening the Foundations of Lasting Peace and Development in Southern Philippines - PHI/01/001

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is inviting applicants who can qualify for National UN Volunteer posts for the Government of the Philippines-United Nations/Multi-Donor Program (GoP-UN/MDP3), a peace and development programme in Southern Philippines.

SPECIALIST ON COMMODITY DELIVERY SYSTEM

Reports directly to the Relief and Rehab Component Manager and shall:

1) Review and enhance the current delivery, monitoring and reporting system of the Food for Work in war affected communities
2) Provide inputs in the assessment of construction processes of shelter units based on negotiated house design standards, and other specifications;
3) Coordinate with other Task Force inter-agency members and the local government units;
4) Prepare and submit periodic report to the Component Manager
5) Provide technical inputs in the preservation of ecological integrity for shelter sites
6) Facilitate promotion of the culture of volunteerism by organizing more volunteer activities in their area of assignment in collaboration with the UNV County Office in Manila; and,
7) Perform such other related functions as may be deemed necessary and appropriate.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree; at least 3-years experience in relief and rehabilitation intervention in conflict areas; experienced in networking and linkaging with agencies of government, local and international NGOs; and must be computer-literate.

SPECIALIST ON RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

Reporting directly to the Component Manager, the NUNV Training Specialist shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1) Coordinate capability building program of the Component for the strengthening of the local disaster mechanisms at the barangay, municipal and provincial level.
2) Establish network with government and non-government organizations to ensure complementation in the capability building program for emergency response agencies operating in Southern Philippines.
3) Develop training modules for disaster response management.
4) Facilitate the conduct of psycho-social intervention for traumalized children and other vulnerable groups in complex emergency situation
5) Facilitate promotion of the culture of volunteerism by organizing more volunteer activities in their area of assignment in collaboration with the UNV County Office in Manila; and
6) Perform other tasks as may be required of him/her by immediate supervisor.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in social-science disciplines; minimum two (2) years experience in community development in Peace and Development Communities (PDCs) and other post-conflict areas in Mindanao; experience on participatory development planning process and governance, with good knowledge on culture of peace and traditional systems of resolving conflicts in the PDCs, networking and linkaging, right-based and results-based management, project cycle management (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation); and must be computer-literate.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AREA COORDINATOR

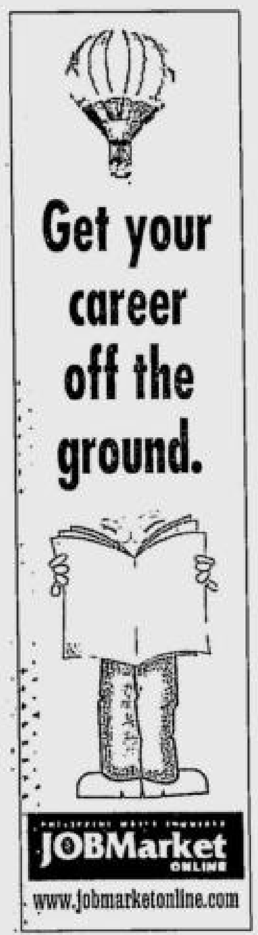
Under the overall supervision of the RH Component Manager and immediate supervision of the Regional Secretary of DOH-ARMM, Provincial Health Officer of Maguindanao, the RH Area Coordinator shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1) Serves as the link between the MDP3, LGUs and the Peace and Development Communities (PDCs) in the implementation of RH activities;
2) Works in partnership with the Health Service Providers and other stakeholders in assessing RH situation in the PDCs;
3) Networks with GAs, NGOs and other CSOs for the effective implementation of RH activities in the PDCs;
4) Prepares RH workplan in consultation with partner agencies/offices and community stakeholders;
5) Coordinates with Health Service Providers and community volunteers and Religious Leaders for organizing and mobilizing women, men and adolescents in the PDCs for RH activities;
6) Facilitates consultative meetings and community assemblies with local organizations;
7) Coordinates with the regional, provincial and city/municipal offices/agencies for RH-capability building activities;
8) Coordinates with other MDP3 components for efficient and effective programme implementations;
9) Monitors the implementation of workplans vis-à-vis the logframe targets;
10) Facilitate promotion of the culture of volunteerism by organizing more volunteer activities in their area of assignment in collaboration with the UNV County Office in Manila; and,
11) Perform other duties that may be required by the Component Manager.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in health or other health-related or social-science related disciplines; at least two years of health-related experience preferably in reproductive health with strong background in community organizing and must be computer-literate.

Preferably applicants should come from Mindanao, are familiar with the culture, history and current situation in Southern Philippines, and able to converse and write in any of the local dialects. For Reproductive Health post, applicants should preferably come from Maguindanao, are familiar with Maguindanao culture, history and current situation, and able to converse and write in the Maguindanaoan dialect.

All application letters with comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before 16 May 2003. Address applications to the United Nations Volunteers, Room 210, 2/F NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail); Fax no. +63-2-812-8657; email to beatriz.fernandez@undp.org. Only shortlisted candidates will be acknowledged.



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- ✓ not more than 30 yrs. old, with pleasing personality
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Applicants may apply personally or send a resume, transcript of records and a 2x2 picture to :
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Mega Magazines and Publications, Inc.
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or at P.O Box 12762 Ortigas Center
e-mail : paul@ivegotstyle.net

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- Computer literate

Mail, or come personally to submit, your complete resume, transcript of records, and 2x2 photo, Mondays or Fridays 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays 8:00a.m. - 12nn to: Mr. Precioso David.

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Laboratory Assistants

Basic Qualifications: For Encoders/Clerks, they must be graduates of Accounting, Computer Science, Office Management, Business Management, or Secretarial Administration. For Laboratory Assistants, they must be graduates of Biology or Engineering, 23 to 35 years of age, computer-literate, and good in both oral and written communication.

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THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Lyceum of the Philippines
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The successful candidate shall be tasked to provide HR support functions which include recruitment, employment, benefits administration, training and development and employee relations. This position is open to those equipped with the following qualifications:

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How to tell when a hustle has become harassment

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: This guy I've been working with for the last few years has suddenly decided I'm his "dream girl." He's constantly sending me lurid love notes and begging me to date him. I'm starting to avoid meetings and hallways where I'm likely to see him, but that's getting in the way of my work. I'm embarrassed and don't know what to do.

Just Trying To Say No

Remember Mitsubishi's old slogan, "the word is getting around?" It's taken on new meaning these days—ever since the company was accused of sexual harassment at its plant in Normal, Illinois. Well, it turns out what's "normal" in Normal may have a new meaning for you, too, because the situation you're describing could also be sexual harassment.

Hard to believe? Listen up. The courts today are taking the position that sexual harassment doesn't require a physical assault. It just needs to be "unwelcome" and have a "negative impact." Locker room humor, lewd calendars, and, yes, repeated and unwelcome requests have all spawned successful lawsuits.

Recognizing harassment

So you may have a more serious situation than you realize. I'd suggest reading "Step Forward" by Susan Webb (Mastelmedia, 1991). It's one of the best primers on recognizing and addressing sexual harassment. The following questions have been adapted from it and should help you decide if the behavior you're experiencing has crossed the line into the harassment camp.

Is the behavior sexual in nature or sex-based? Clearly, fondling has no place at work, but as we said before, behavior doesn't have to be sexual to be considered sexual harassment. It can be any comment or joke directed at you simply because of your sex.

Is the behavior deliberate and/or repeated? Graphic or invasive behavior can happen once and be considered a problem. But less flagrant behavior (like being asked for a date) can be harassment too—if it happens a lot.

Does the behavior affect your ability to work? You don't have to lose a job or a promotion to have been damaged in the eyes of the court. A negative atmosphere that impedes an employee's ability to work has been legally deemed harassment.

Not mutual

Is the behavior not welcome, not asked for, and not mutual? If you decide this behavior does seem like harassment, and decide to file a claim, the investigator will want to know how you reacted. The theory is "it takes two to tango," and it's important to show that you weren't a willing partner.

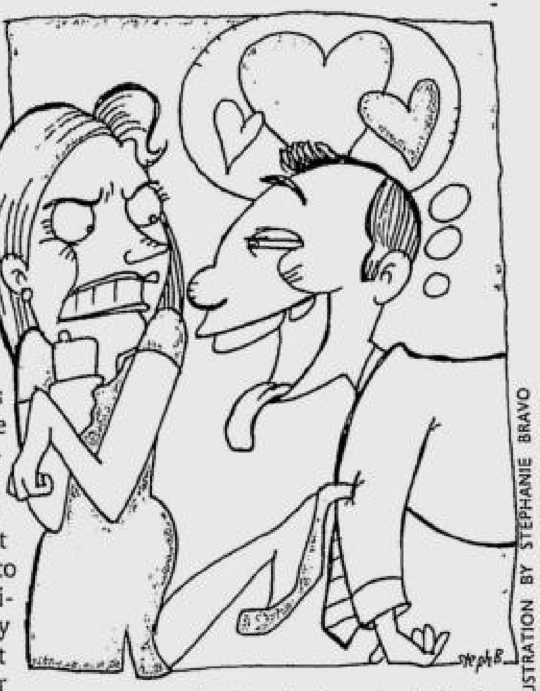

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Webb suggests starting with the "broken record" approach: saying over and over again, "I don't appreciate it when you say that to me. I don't appreciate it when you say that to me..." If that fails, check out your company's sexual harassment policy. You may be able to file a claim in-house, or you may need to hire an outside attorney.

Fortunately, "the word is getting around" about sexual harassment. Thanks to Mitsubishi, what used to be normal in Normal, won't be normal for long.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and Retention Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded. com.*)*

CPAs sing...

(From page N14)

tial of some Cunanan employees. "I personally handpicked the members based on two qualifications," he explains. "First, the person should get along with the other members. Second, the voice should fit the chorale."

Aside from Borlas, the first members were Janet Nunag, John Casañas and Rani Ricacho. They used to hold jamming sessions in their spare time. During Cunanan's anniversary, the four had a chance to jam with Carlo Gaerlan, JM Pabiton and Roy Marcelino. Borlas had the idea of including them in the group. Then, Kim Santiaguel was "discovered," when she joined the office singing competition where she sang a Jessa Zaragoza song. The last to join was Gina Paredes.

Gigs

Pabiton, who sings tenor, explains that the members wanted to have a name that is easy to recall. When they started, singing groups like A1 and 1728 were using numbers as their names. He says they followed suit. "So 'ten' is the number of the members while 'seven' (p.m.) is the time of our practice," he adds.

The first gig came when Nunag's cousin was looking for singers to sing for her wedding. They traveled all the way to Pampanga. Nunag, who sings alto and acts as group treasurer, narrates that they were nervous.

Casañas, who sings bass, explains that if the couple requests for many songs, the group usually arranges a medley to accommodate everything. Borlas and Gaerlan do the arrangement. "We usually have three sets of medleys — for the guys, the girls and duets." Casañas says. Depending on the arrangement, Ten to Seven can sing at church and during reception. The group can also handle the program, with Nunag and Casañas hosting and the rest taking care of the sounds and ushering.

Different companies

Presently, only four members remain in Joaquin Cunanan—Santiaguel and Pabiton as auditors, Nunag as tax consultant, and Gaerlan as senior auditor. Marcelino has recently left the firm. The rest are working for other companies. Paredes is with Tupperware as project accountant. Montealegre is an accountant for ChevronTexaco. Ricacho is working as accountant in Avon, Casañas works for Fortune Managers as project manager. Borlas is now working for the World Health Organization's finance department.

Ricacho claims that the members are very good friends. Ricacho is the groups' events organizer—meaning she makes the bonding activities. "If we don't have singing engagements, we go to videokes to unwind," she jokes.

Paredes offers that the group intends to do more charity work this year. "December will be spent caroling to raise funds," she says. Ten to Seven also intends to sing at different churches every Sunday. Eventually, they want to try singing at jazz and acoustic bars.

With what they have so far accomplished, the professionals of Ten to Seven have composed a melody of enduring friendships, financial growth and charity work. They are indeed making beautiful music for themselves and others.

(For more information, email tentoseven_music @yahoo.com *or call 0917-7956943)*

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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

FRIENDS AT WORK

CPAs sing 'for a song' to make orphans happy

By Rochelle Leonor

WORK bonded their friendship. And music cemented their commitment to help disadvantaged kids lead happier lives.

Two years ago, a group of certified public accountants working at Cunanan Price-WaterHouse organized a chorale called Ten to Seven. The group is composed of 10 young professionals, with ages ranging from 23 to 30. Instead of tweaking numbers, they blend voices at weddings and reunions for a fee and sing for special audiences *pro bono*.

Children's needs

Gaerlan, who sings bass and is the group's keyboardist, explains that Ten to Seven doesn't want to be just a moneymaking group. One time, they serenaded the partners of Joaquin Cunanan. The proceeds then went to the group's outreach programs for Bantay Bata. "Since Ten to Seven is not our bread and butter, we have the luxury to give more to charity."

Last December, the group visited *Bahay ni Maria*, a small orphanage in Jupiter, Makati, which houses around 45 kids. Montealegre, who sings alto/soprano, says the group wants to concentrate on children. "They have little expectations on people, it's easy to make them happy but the impact is tremendous," she explains.

Marcelino narrates that in Bahay ni Maria, they taught kids action songs, played with them and gave gifts. "In return, the kids performed for us." On that same day, the group also visited Ahon Foundation, another orphanage.

SITTING from left, first row are John Casañas, Janet Nunag, JM Pabiton and Gary Borlas. Standing are Roy Marcelino and Rani Ricacho. Sitting from left, second row are Kim Santiaguel, Gina Paredes, Carlo Gaerlan and Chace Montealegre.

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

Santiaguel explains that the money they spent came from their caroling sessions. They went as far as Pampanga to raise funds for their project. The money collected, in turn, was spent to buy toys for the kids. "It feels happy because we did something for other people," she smiles. "Everybody was involved in raising funds."

Forming the chorale

Ten to Seven is Gary Borlas' brainchild. He developed the idea of forming a chorale in 2001 when all the members were still working at the Joaquin Cunanan PriceWater-House office. Having had the experience in managing and teaching a church choir in Malate, Borlas saw the poten

CPAS/N12

What's inside

Working Wounded *N12*
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MARKETING BRAND 'YOU'

'How can I describe myself to interviewers?'

By Regina Galang Reyes

THE INTERVIEW phase in job hunting is a nerve-wracking ordeal for most job applicants. Here's a cry for help from one of our readers on this score: "I've been reading your article every Sunday at the Inquirer. I graduated last April 4 with a degree of banking and finance. Could you please give me ideas on how to answer and pass an interview? Interviewers often ask me to describe myself. They also ask, 'Why do you want to join this bank?' Please help me so I can be able to get a job as soon as possible. Thank you. Continue to share your knowledge in your article."

When interviewers ask a job seekers to describe themselves, it may seem like a simple task to do. However, many job applicants find it hard to do so. This is not surprising because you would have to know yourself pretty well to be able to describe in an instant the "essential you." In most cases, knowing yourself is a life long task. There are few people who can claim that he knows himself a hundred percent.

Therefore, the first thing you must do to be able to confidently answer the interviewer when she asks you to in effect "bare your soul" is to go through a process of honest self-assessment.

Multi-feedback

Try using the 360-degree feedback mechanism often used in performance appraisal. This refers to feedback coming from people who are your superiors, your friends and colleagues, and your subordinates. Since you are not yet in a work environment, you can apply this mechanism by asking your parents, your friends and schoolmates, and your younger siblings or nieces and nephews what they think about you. Be prepared to get both positive and negative feedback. Then, compare their feedback with what you know of yourself and see whether the feedback feels true or not.

Another way of knowing yourself is by taking personality assessment (PA) tests. If you have a psychologist friend, you can ask her to administer one and interpret the results for you. There are also many available for free in the Internet.

A PA can help you know yourself by describing your strengths, weaknesses, motivational factors and demotivational factors. Knowing these things can help you improve yourself as a person. You can also work with your strengths and build them to your advantage.

The good thing is, once you've found a good free PA test in the Internet, you can ask your friends and family to take them too. It can strengthen open communication with you and others and help build good relationships.

Job match

A personality test can also indicate what job is suited to your personality. Certain personalities are suited to specific jobs based on the nature of work required by the job. A personality test can help you determine whether or not a job fits in with your basic personality. Is the environment one that will encourage you to work and motivate you to produce your best? Will it allow you to use your personal skills to the utmost?

Once you have a fair assessment of yourself, how do you now answer the interviewer? To be more comfortable with your answer, try writing one or two paragraphs about yourself highlighting your strengths. You can also include your obvious weakness but make sure to say what steps you are taking to improve yourself.

Reasons

The second question as to why you want to join a company is easier to answer. Answer from the perspective of career, financial and personal growth. Emphasize also the good attributes of the company that made you want to apply with them. These are the usual reasons for working in any company. Bear in mind though that every company has its own share of challenges and that they seek employees who can help them address these challenges.

For those who would like to get free personality assessment software (which I got free from the Internet), email me at rreyes@inquirer.com. ph. It may be a bit heavy to receive through email but the insights and fun you can get from it are worth the wait.

(Email feedback to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph. *For advice on job hunting and career tips, tune in to "People at Work sa DZRH" every Wednesday at 666 AM on your radio dial with the author, Reggie Reyes, former DOLE secretary Atty. Benny Laguesma and veteran broadcasters Ruth Abao Espinosa and Andy Verde.)*

JED ESTRADA

Imagining Jesus

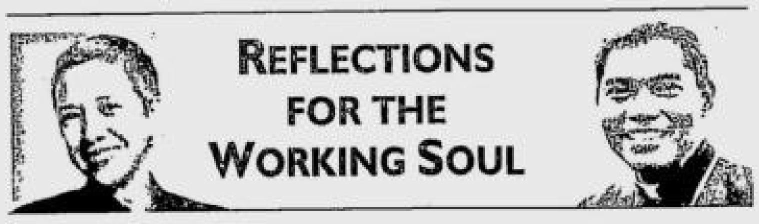
By Teresa R. Tunay

"...HE stood in their midst..." My, what a thrill to have Jesus standing right before me, even though I myself saw the corpse buried over three days ago! Jesus is my idol, really—I know it sounds mushy, and I know that some people upon hearing this might ask me, "*Okay ka lang*, Tere?" but that's, the, truth. I so love That Man that I have a countless number of times wished I had lived during His time, even as a nobody, as long I could be around Him as much as I wanted to. But as it is, today, I have only that love to help me imagine He's in our midst so I can go through every working day with grace.

Driving to and from work or between appointments, I can pretend ,I'm a taxi driver and Jesus is my fare—because Manila's traffic could be hell and I know that more than one "*punyeta*" in the morning could spoil the rest of my day. With the Lord in my car, how could I not be so courteous on the road? I stop to let people cross the street, I'm patient with motorists in a hurry, I wave and smile at other nice drivers, I brake gently, I go easy over humps, and I respect the red light even when no one's looking.

When the boss gets so unreasonable, impertinent, irrelevant, illogical, incompetent and turns into a war freak, I take a deep breath and remember that my real boss is the Jewish carpenter who could walk upon the water and raise the dead. He doesn't want me to lose my cool; in any situation He wants me to count on His peace—for in due time He makes things much better than I can ever hope or imagine.

(Email the author at avemaria@csi.com.ph*)*



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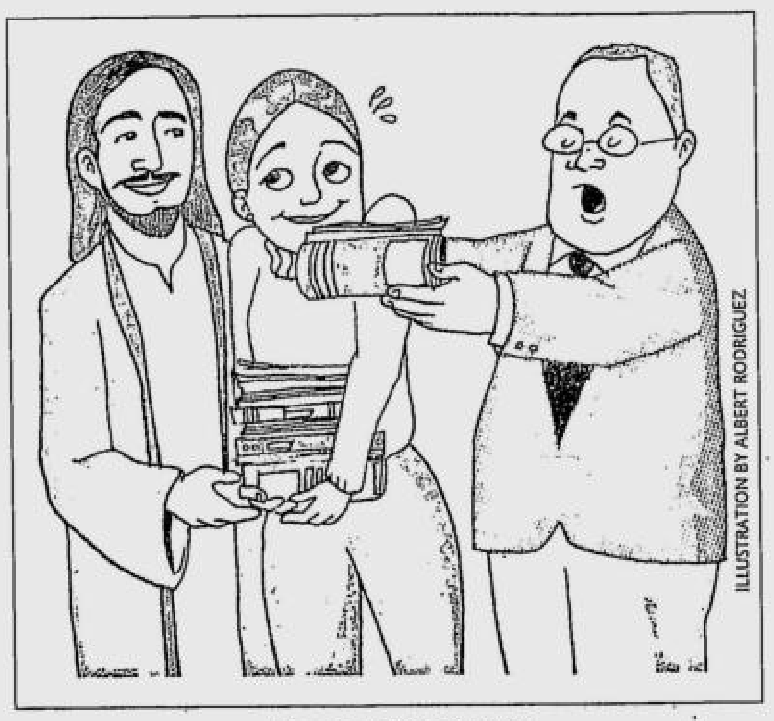

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Gospel Luke 24:35-48

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

'Peace be with you!'

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IMAGINE the Risen Lord Jesus appearing to the State leaders at the UN Security Council, to Bush and Saddam Hussein, to the troops of the Coalition Forces and the dreaded Iraqi Republican Guards or to the simple Iraqis who lost their loved ones in the bombardment of Iraq—and Jesus would say to them, "Peace be with you!" Would there be peace in the world?

"Peace be with you!" rings in the hearts of many in the world today as cry of appeal to every one, especially to those who are responsible for the conflicts among peoples in the various parts of the world. It sounds like an urgent call for all of us to work for peace. How can we, including those who consider themselves just simple ordinary workers, contribute to world peace in our day-to-day life and work?

We may not be decision makers when it comes to world peace, but when we integrate work very well in our life—accepting it not as a burden but as a means to express ourselves fully, doing it willingly and joyfully as our personal way of providing for the needs of our loved ones, or, as our share in building a happy community—we experience peace and harmony within us. A worker, who is affirmed by his boss for a job well done, readily affirms his wife and his children in their respective tasks at home. A manager who "sees" Jesus in his workers and treats them with care and respect creates a peaceful workplace. When everyone is at peace with himself, at home and in the workplace—imagine what a peaceful world it would be!

(Email the author at mfvg@skyinet.net*)*

sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
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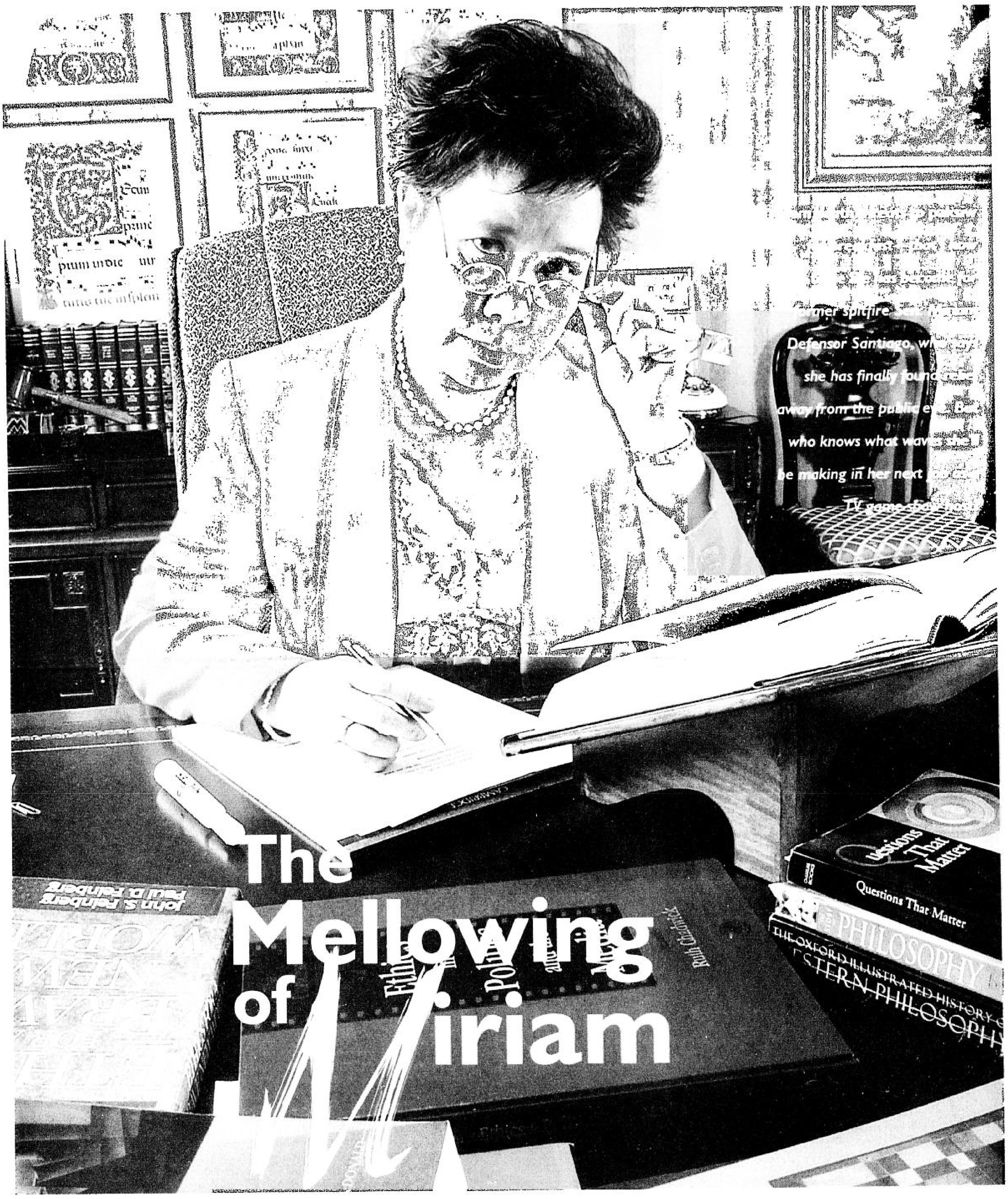
May 4, 2003



The Mellowing of Miriam

…rmer spitfire
Defensor Santiago, w…
she has finally found
away from the public e…
who knows what wav…
be making in her next
TV game sho…

By Willard Cheng
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

"THIS is probably the happiest part of my life," claims Miriam Defensor Santiago, former senator, erstwhile immigration commissioner, agrarian reform secretary and regional trial judge known for once defying former President Marcos, and the woman who says she was cheated out of the country's presidency.

The fiery Ilongga was last heard from when a group of De La Salle University students and alumni blocked her September 2002 appointment to a teaching position at the University.

"I felt it was very small-minded," Santiago says candidly of the outcry that stemmed from her being identified with the camp of former President Joseph Estrada. She was all set to teach Politics and Governance and International Law and had already bought the books, notebooks, and clothes she would need when La Salle Vice President for Academics Andrew Gonzalez withdrew the offer of a teaching post.

It was no skin off her nose, Santiago says of her thwarted career move. "It was really more of a relief," she says, adding that contending with Manila's traffic would have set back her college textbook series.

At the same time, this holder of masteral, doctoral and honorary degrees in law rues what she sees

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No glitzy ballroom affair is complete without choreography by Mariquita 'Bujing' Danao

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Miriam

...from page 1

as the deterioration of academic freedom because of a professor's political ideas. "That's very dangerous! You don't expect a professor to be values-free! They become great professors because they feel very passionate and committed to whatever values they wish to uphold."

In Santiago's case, those values can sometimes stray from what is considered the social norm. When her youngest son Alexander Robert (A.R.) graduated from college at the Ateneo last month, Santiago decided not to show up. "I cannot sit there and pretend to be interested," says this feisty and iconoclastic lawyer who also once dissuaded her parents from attending her own graduation at the state university.

Known for her acerbic wit and sharp tongue, Santiago, 57, has never believed in rituals for rituals' sake. For her, a graduation rite does not signify anything for "onlookers" such as the graduate's parents. Besides, A.R. already knows he has her moral support, she claims, whether in the form of cash for allowance or a "motion for reconsideration" of his father Narciso's decision.

"I just didn't see what purpose I was going to serve there," Santiago muses. "I would only block traffic and increase humidity in the area."

Being senator was an easy hat for the outspoken Miriam to wear

PDI PHOTO

The laid-back outlook is in stark contrast to the once "very, very tense mother who tended to identify with the destinies of her children," making sure that A.R. and elder brother, Archie, went to the best schools, got good grades, and mapped out successful careers. Now, says Santiago, she can only compare her children's lives to an unfolding rosebud: "I appreciate it, but there is nothing I can do about it."

If hairstyle were any indication, much, too, has changed in Santiago's outlook since she lost her senatorial bid in May 2001. The coiffed hair she used to sport in public office has given way to salt-and-pepper tresses that she wears loose inside her plush law office in Quezon City. Instead of tailored blazers, she wore a tangerine blouse and gartered khakis during this interview, matching the casual outfit with an orange bead necklace and earrings.

The transition from raucous political scene to quiet academic life has allowed the high-profile and outspoken former politician to enjoy her newfound privacy. She has since finished writing 10 volumes of law textbooks and two other undergraduate textbooks on political science and international law, all part of her college textbook series sponsored by Central Professional Books.

She has also found time to deliver lectures on constitutional and international law, her fields of expertise, for the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, under the Supreme Court's mandatory continuing legal education for lawyers. "I am living a completely academic life and I just love it!" she grins. "For me this is a luxury, a dream life."

Life has become more prosaic, says Santiago, who earned the public's ire for her being a staunch ally of former President Estrada and one of 11 senators who voted against the opening of an envelope that reportedly contained damaging evidence against Estrada during his impeachment trial in 2000.

Weekends are spent with the family, at the Farmer's Market in Cubao every Saturday morning for food supplies, and the malls, where Santiago hunts down the latest home and kitchen gadgets.

The woman who was known to "eat death threats for breakfast" likes rice served with *paksiw*, fish stewed in vinegar, for her early morning meal. To fend off unwanted pounds, she sweats it out at her private gym at home, doing battle with the treadmill, the stationary bike, sit-up bench and a cruncher. She dropped the high-tech Timeworks machine after using it for a month, she says, because of undue side effects: "It was enlarging my breasts so much they were hitting my arms!" she jests.

Enjoying "the happiest time of her life"

But the rush to physical fitness has a deeper political reason, Santiago says, pointing to an almost invisible scar right below her lips. The scar recalls a wound she sustained when she figured in a car wreck while on her way to Pangasinan in April 1991. A speeding car suddenly swerved into her car's path, hurtling against the car's rear half, where she was seated. It was barely two weeks after she had proclaimed her presidential bid in a press conference.

Santiago is convinced that it was an assassination attempt, especially since she bore the brunt of the collision. The car roof fell on her head, causing blood to spurt from her scalp like a fountain, and skinning her chin. Her driver and a bodyguard were unscathed, but her sister-in-law, Margaret Defensor, was knocked unconscious.

"I'm so controversial that I wouldn't know when something like that would happen again," she muses. "So I have to be in good physical shape, not only so I can fight back or run away quickly, but also to help in my recuperation," says Santiago.

Indeed, the former immigration commissioner and agrarian reform secretary made a lot of enemies during her term, from pedophiles, illegal aliens and smugglers to fixers and landlords. Her volatile personality didn't help any, although it did make her a media darling for her colorful quotes. She was known to hurl chairs at erring employees in the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID). Asked what she would do to corrupt officials and employees, the woman they described as a "graftbuster" once said, "Chop them into a thousand pieces and feed them to the sharks in Manila Bay."

Her efforts as BID commissioner paid off when she was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service in 1989, "for her bold and moral leadership in cleaning up a graft-ridden government agency."

But becoming the most prominent member of the Aquino cabinet also made the diction-challenged Santiago the perennial butt of jokes in TV shows, rumor mills, and coffee shops. An intellectual motormouth, at once combative and emotional, Santiago earned the monickers "Brenda" ("brain damage") and "Mikee" ("*may kililing*").

Although she maintains that the comedy spoofs and mockeries did not hurt her at all, the "Iron Lady of Asia" confesses to feeling frustrated about the political propaganda: "I didn't feel hurt. I felt very angry. I felt very murderous."

Apparently, neither the jokes nor the propaganda hurt her chances at the presidency in 1992, when she finished a very close second to President Fidel Ramos in the seven-cornered race. "I won in the voting but lost in the counting," Santiago insists to this day.

She thinks being a woman aggravates matters. Abrasive, temperamental, and incapable of mincing words, the woman defies the social definition of being feminine. A critic once said, "*Ang ayaw ko kay* Miriam, *ang dating n'ya parang lalaki* (she comes across as a man)." She shrugs that off.

"Obviously it was a mortal sin to be masculine." But then, she adds, "This is male chauvinism in its last vestiges."

The male swagger isn't all. Santiago has also been dissed for her intellectual arrogance when she described her critics as being "of lower life forms" who have never passed the UP entrance exams or set foot in Harvard or Oxford.

"Yes, I am intellectually arrogant," she retorts. "All intellectuals are entitled to be arrogant. That's the only way they can educate the non-intellectual. *Inggit na lang sila* (they're just jealous)." She never claimed to have graduated from Harvard and Oxford, where she merely took brief postgraduate courses, she clarifies. She remembers only having said that she was not going to pay enough attention to unintelligent questions or criticisms.

That seemingly innocent hyperbole typical of Santiago cost her dearly: She lost badly in her senatorial bid, a defeat that she does not mind, she claims. In fact, she adds, she feels relieved at being out of "a stupid system" that "has degenerated into an entertainment industry in itself."

Not that her disillusionment with politics makes a comeback impossible. Running anew for public office is a case of destiny rather than personal choice, Santiago believes. Except that, after losing several times in national elections, she would definitely need more convincing this time, she adds.

One role she certainly didn't need that much convincing for is that of a TV host. One might even say Santiago is a natural as the sarcastic and stern quiz master in the game show "The Weakest Link," which Edu Manzano used to host on Viva TV. "I have accepted it simply because it might be fun. It will allow me to work with young people which I like doing anyway," she says. With the Viva studios just nearby, she need not step out of her law office too long, either. Her only complaint, she says, is that "it's not going to pay too much," only P25,000 per episode.

But knowing how Santiago enjoys spewing venom and taunts at lesser mortals, the former senator just might have the last laugh as she bids public office a mocking "Goodbye!"

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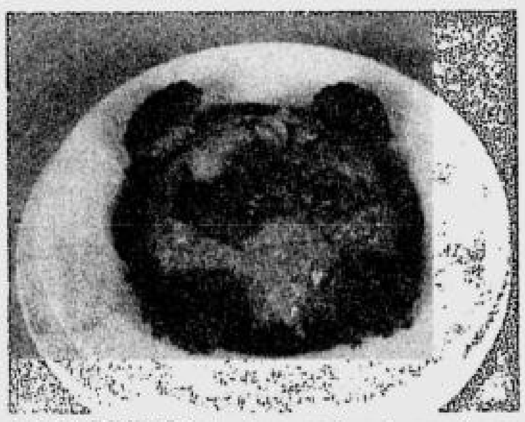


LIGHT DINING Braised bouquet of mushrooms, fungus wrapped in dried beancurd skin is one of the featured dishes as Mandarin Oriental stages Vegetarian Delight at Tin Hau restaurant from May 5-25. Vegetarian cuisine is available daily from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and at 6:30 to 10 p.m. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Weatherbeaten

By the time you read this, the week-
long typhoon will have moved
north towards the South
China Sea, as the weatherman
had predicted. They never change
course this time of year,
these tropical storms named
after fickle women—like migratory
birds, they never stay long
enough to learn local words
for love, steadfast to their wind-
blown language of rainbursts.
By the time you read this,
the monsoon will have peered
through many windows,
including yours—frosted panes
we will slide shut tomorrow
in a room incensed with citrus
and summer, while the wind
unwraps wires from electric poles
around Luzon. By the time you
read this poem, steel wings
will have flown you to a city
dry and thunderless, in one
direction: away. And clouds
will have unsettled in my eyes
and Manila skies, watching puddles
evaporate on these streets
in your wake. You will know,
perhaps, every time you read this,
what it's like to be a woman
no storm has been named after,
to be unfazed by the forecast
of foul weather, with these words
storming through the lightning-
stricken heart, writing up
a storm to weather your leaving.

Naya S. Valdellon

Dasal

Itong dasal na aking inaalmusal
ay masustansiya at malinamnam.
Mangingitlog ng kabutihan
ang aking dalawang mata,
sasalamin sa tamis
ng araw na pinagpala.
Aagos ng gatas ang mga bibitawan
kong salita, hindi na kailangang
magluto pa ng mamantikang wika.
Sapat na ang pag-ibig na dadaloy
mula sa aking dila, sasariwain
at pagsasaluhan sa tuwi-tuwina.
Pag-krus ng landas natin
ay susubuan kita ng dasal kong mabisa,
at ikaw ay mabubusog sa tuwa.

Amadeo M. Mendoza

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Ian with wife Pam and kids Draco and [illegible]

Seen On TV

By Tinna S. Bonifacio

Photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan

The Actor Reinvented

> *From child star to teen heartthrob to action prince, and now, soap opera headliner and on-screen closet queen? Boyish Ian Veneracion may be one of the most versatile actors around, but he performs best in his role as husband and father*

TALK about reinvention. At age five, Ian Veneracion broke into showbiz as the son of comedian Joey de Leon in the sitcom "Joey and Son." After more than two years, he quit the show, only to resurface a few years later as a singing and dancing teenybopper in German Moreno's "That's Entertainment."

Several years later, he was back again, but this time as an action star, debuting in "Alyas Baby Face" when he was only 15.

Now, Ian Veneracion has reinvented himself yet again as a man torn between two women in ABS-CBN's new primetime *teleserye "Darating Ang Umaga."* In it, Ian stars opposite Eula Valdez and Vina Morales, who play the sisters Mira and Arianna.

This is actually not Ian's first soap stint. He did "*Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin*" for GMA-7, although his role lasted only a few months. "*Darating Ang Umaga*" is his first major dramatic role for television.

Why the sudden shift? "I didn't want to be stuck doing action movies forever," he explains. "I've been doing action for almost 15 years, and I needed a change. I wanted to try different plots and something more than the usual car and boat chases."

More than "Joey and Son" or "That's Entertainment," however, it was action films that "made" him. Ian was a success as an action star because he broke the stereotype. His mestizo looks made him the antithesis of the Pinoy action hero. In a genre dominated by Rudy Fernandez and Phillip Salvador, Ian was a boy, and looked like one. So he tried hard to prove he belonged. "In the beginning, I was really *pa*-macho," laughs Ian. "I was into action movies, and I was working with men. So I felt I had to prove myself to them."

Action movies were physically challenging even to this natural athlete who counts motocross racing, skydiving and flying (he's a licensed pilot) among his hobbies. Like most action stars, he had his share of scrapes on the set. During the filming of "Zaldong Tisoy," he had to jump from the second floor of a building while trying to fire a gun. As he hurtled toward the floor, Ian dropped the gun, which hit his shin and caused a deep gash. Another time, while filming a commercial, he was suspended several feet in the air. The harness broke, and Ian fell to the ground. He was covered with bruises for several weeks after that.

But Ian was never afraid to die. Because he was an action star who made his living performing stunts, he had no choice but to accept the inevitability of death. "Death is a very personal experience," he says. "I've already accepted that no matter what I do, I can't stop death from coming. *Darating at darating 'yan.*"

If he did have to die, Ian would want his death to be like a scene from one of his movies—full of action. "I'm the type of person who wants to experience life to the fullest. That's why I got hooked on skydiving. If I'm going to die, I want it to be the same way. I don't want to die in my sleep. I want a front row seat at my own death; otherwise, I'd feel cheated."

So if death doesn't scare him, what does? Losing his loved ones, for one thing. "I'm scared that the people I love will go before I do," he says, referring to Pam, his wife of six years, and his two kids, son Draco (who was named after the dragon in the movie "Dragonheart") and doll-like daughter Deirdre. He and Pam were first united in a civil wedding in 1996, then tied the knot again a year later in a church wedding at San Agustin.

A hands-on father, Ian worries about his kids' future in a world of crime, corruption and SARS. Like most fathers, he wants his son and daughter to grow up healthy and happy. Most of all, he wants them to have a normal childhood.

Though Draco and Deirdre are cute enough to make a fortune in commercials, Ian isn't sure he wants them joining showbiz so young. That, he says, is the reason he quit "Joey and Son" after more than two years on the show.

"I was getting tired of all the attention and I wanted a normal childhood." For four years, he had the normal childhood that he craved. Then, at age 11, he came back on "That's Entertainment." Then came the action movies that earned Ian the title "Prince of Action Movies."

The offer to do drama came at just the right time. Ian had become a husband and father and was ready for a change of pace. "I had two options—either I stick to action movies, or do something else. I realized I didn't want to be an action star, I wanted to be an actor."

Aside from the role as Abel on "*Darating Ang Umaga,*" Ian has been eagerly trying out different things, like his first gay role on the big screen. Ian played a closet queen in "Intermates," a film on gay culture produced by Tojaro Productions, a UK-based company. Ian, former child star and Prince of Action Movies, playing a closet queen? "Ricky (Gallardo, his talent manager and owner of The Talent Factory) told me about the project. When I found out it was a gay role, I discussed it with Pam first. I told her, 'Either you'll be proud of me, or you're going to be ashamed of me for doing this.' When she said yes, I decided to go for it."

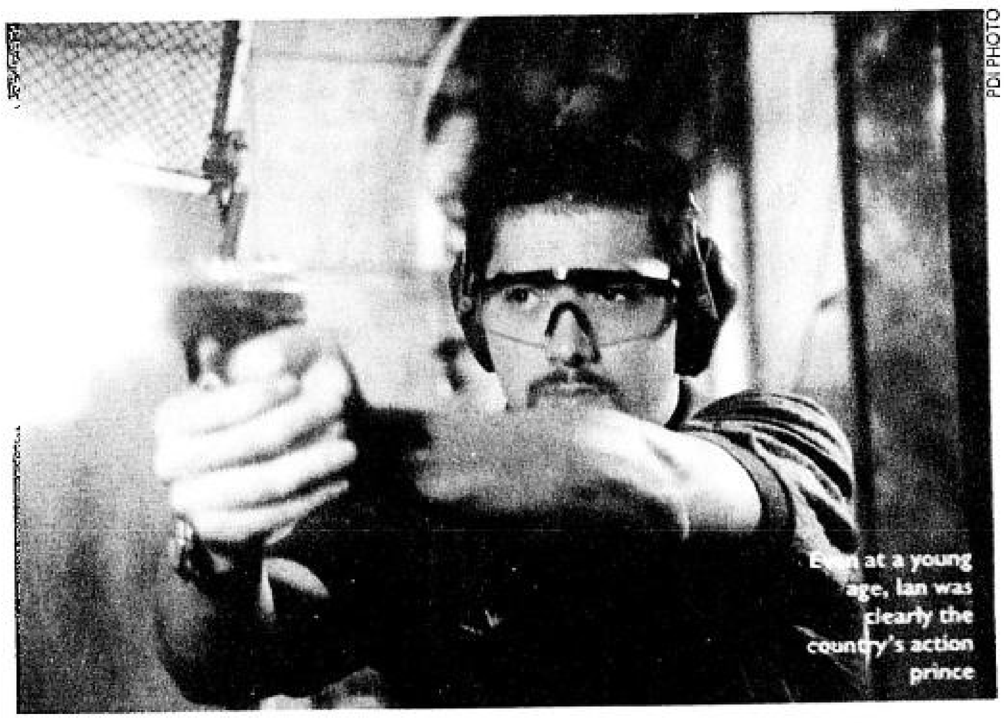
More than 300 Filipino actors auditioned for the part. When Ian found out that he won not just a part, but the lead role in the movie, he drew upon real-life friendships to make his acting work. "It was easy for me, because I'm not a homophobic person," says Ian. "I have a lot of friends who are gay, and that helped."

One of the highlights of the movie was a party scene where Ian was supposed to grab another guest and kiss him on the mouth. They tried it, but disguised the kiss to make it look real. The problem was, it didn't quite come out the way the director wanted. "So I told the director, 'You want me to do the real thing? I will, but don't tell him (the other actor) that I'm going to kiss him,'" says Ian.

When the shooting resumed, the actors went into their dialogue. All of a sudden, Ian grabbed the guy and did something he'd only done before in his action movies. "I used a head lock on him. Then I kissed him on the lips for a full five seconds. After that, we couldn't stop laughing!"

Now that he has a daily *teleserye,* Ian doesn't have much free time on his hands, but when he does, he either spends the time at home with his wife and kids, horsing around, or painting; his father, after all, is abstract artist Roy Veneracion. Ian, himself every inch the proud father, showed off a couple of paintings by Draco and Deirdre, and joked that one day, a family exhibit just might be in the offing.

Actually, a lot of things are in the offing for Ian. As the saying goes, this is just the beginning.



PDI PHOTO

Even at a young age, Ian was clearly the country's action prince

Action at the playground: More than anything, Ian wants his kids to have a normal childhood

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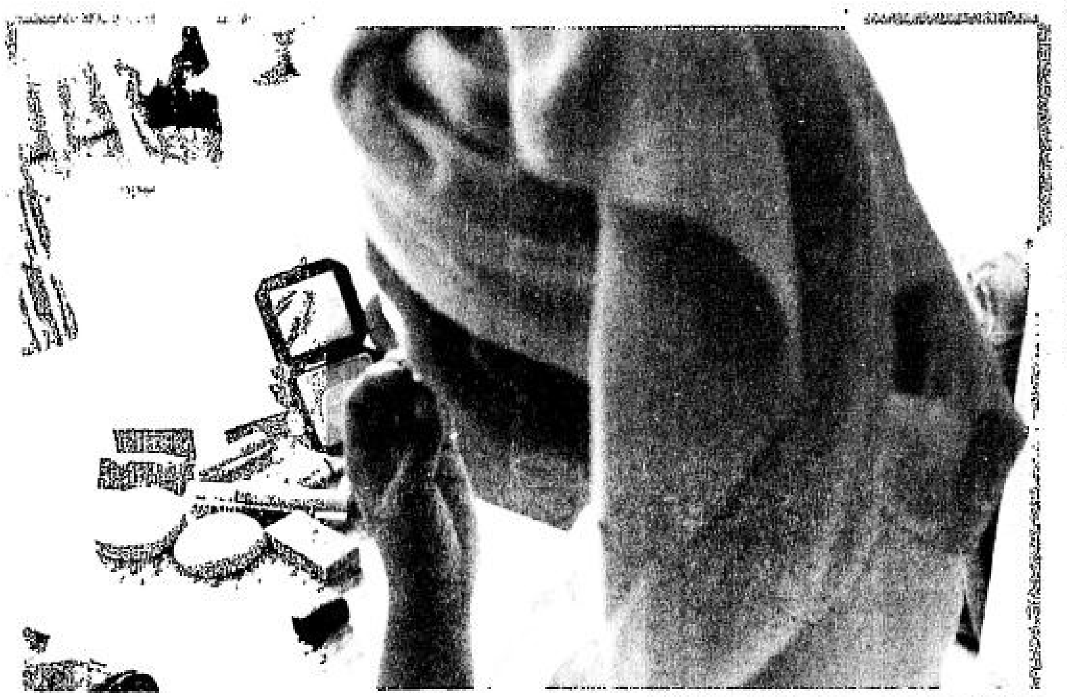
All Access

Text and photographs
by Jim Gulao Punzalan

Working Girl

A freelance sex worker takes us through the paces of a job that defies respect and regular hours



10:05 p.m.: Mary Jane begins a night's work by putting her game face on

It took me a month to convince "Mary Jane" (not her real name), a sex worker, to agree to be the subject of a photo essay.

"*Ayaw ko, baka may makakilala sa akin*" (Somebody might recognize me), said Mary Jane. She finally agreed, on condition that I hide her identity and not expose her face.

Dressed in a sexy outfit and fully made up, Mary Jane, who is in her early 30s, steps out of her small rented room in Sta. Ana, Manila at around 10 p.m.

At the Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard, Mary Jane sits on one of the benches to wait for customers. A typical day for Mary Jane means at least two clients; she's lucky if she gets three.

Mary Jane charges a foreign client at least P700 and a local customer P400-P500. She gives P150 to P200 in commission money to a pimp, who solicits for her. But she admits that on a bad day, customers shortchange her, and worse, she gets beaten up if she refuses a request.

After an hour of waiting, Mary Jane's regular customer—a dark, medium-built man—arrives. After a brief chat, the two hail a cab that takes them to a seedy motel in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Mary Jane and her customer agree that I can take some pictures of them in the small, dimly-lit room they rented for only P75.

After three hours, Mary Jane and her customer casually walk out of the room. Another night's work for Mary Jane.

10:50 p.m.: [illegible] Mary [illegible] encounter is a stray black cat

11:58 p.m.: After 10 minutes of negotiation, a deal is struck and Mary Jane goes with her client in a cab to a motel in nearby Sta. Cruz

12:30 a.m.: Mary Jane talks to her waiting customer while undressing

12:40 a.m.: Mary Jane removes her bra as the evening's work begins in earnest

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In the Company of Leaders

SMART Is 2003's Best Employer

Global human resources outsourcing and consulting firm Hewitt Associates, co-sponsored together with the Management Association of the Philippines and Business World, awarded SMART Communications Inc. the accolade of Best Employer in Asia 2003-Philippines. Although the award focuses the public's attention on the company being the 'Best Employer', the ironic twist in SMART's secret of success is based on the employees taking ownership of the company itself.

The SMART Culture

In a speech given to the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), SMART President and CEO Napoleon Nazareno talked about staying power, versatility, empowerment, belonging, ownership, and the spirit of volunteerism. Mr. Nazareno described the competition in the telecommunications business as 'not tailored for the faint-hearted.' He went on to say that, "You always have to be on your toes. There is no time to rest on your laurels because the other guys are plotting to trash you. The death blow of the competition can come from the direction least expected."

Best Employers of 2003

How did SMART win this year's award? According to Susan Manalo of Hewitt Associates said the crucial criteria included:

1) **Good communication and feedback, opportunities for employees to provide insights**-Smart is described by insiders and observers as a relatively flat organization, lending itself well to excellent communication amongst internal publics, or in Smart terms, efficient "cascades" that facilitate key collaborations.

2) **Development programs that encourage employees to improve their skills and potential** -Smart is fastidious in developing and implementing training programs that keep it up to date in the cutting edge field of telecommunications where technology proceeds at the light speed pace that it does.

3) **Challenging employees to wear different hats in order to increase competencies and teamwork**- One of the Smart dictums especially in marketing is "to be flexible" and dynamic, "to lead" and not to follow. Historically, Smart has been quite the success in making "thinking out of the box" pay off.

The pride of one's self and one's work is the driving force behind a company that has succeeded in being the preeminent corporation in an extremely competitive industry. It has also translated into SMART having thousands of the best, most empowered leaders in any industry, and as a consequence, into being the most respected employer in Philippines for 2003

Hewitt
BEST EMPLOYERS
2003

Receiving the Best Employer in Asia-Philppine Awards Night are (fourth from left) SMART President and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno and (extreme left) SMART Human Resources Management and Development Group Head Annette V. Santiago. Also in the photo are Hewitt Associates Country Manager Susan Rivera-Manalo, Hewitt Associates Market Leader for South Asia Ravi Virmani, and Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Business World Board Member Cesar Virata.

BEST EMPLOYERS IN ASIA 2003
PHILIPPINES
Smart Communications, Inc.
Hewitt

ADVT.

SMART COMMUNICATIONS and Research in Motion:

The BlackBerry Wireless E-Mail Solution Soon in the Philippines

SMART's corporate customers will be able to truly claim being "Always On, Always Connected"" with wireless email through the acclaimed BlackBerry" wireless platform, soon to be available for the very first time in the Philippines. SMART's corporate clients will enjoy integrated wireless voice and data services operating on SMART's GSM/GPRS dual band network (900/1800MHz frequencies).

What Is BlackBerry?

BlackBerry is an award-winning wireless platform developed by Research In Motion (RIM) (Nasdaq: RIMM; TSX: RIM) that has been successfully deployed in thousands of companies in North America and Europe with expansion beginning in Asia.

What does BlackBerry do?

BlackBerry allows corporate users to manage their important information and communications, including email, phone, SMS, browser and organizer applications, from a single wireless handheld that will operate on SMART's GSM/GPRS network. RIM's unique BlackBerry solution revolutionized the North American industry by delivering advanced wireless handhelds with always-on operation together with a push-based architecture, integration with existing email accounts and end-to-end security for corporate users.

"As a leading service provider in the Philippines, we are proud to be the innovator in the industry, always bringing the newest and the best technology. We are very pleased to introduce the BlackBerry wireless platform to our customers," says Edgardo Bautista, Business and Product Development Group Head at SMART. "BlackBerry will provide our customers with the only handheld that will keep them securely connected to their corporate email through push technology. Our corporate subscribers will not need to retrieve email on their phones. Their emails will be sent to them automatically. This is the strength of BlackBerry, always on and always connected."

"We continue to expand the market for BlackBerry by partnering with leading network operators like SMART Communications to deliver integrated voice and data services for business and government users," said Jim Balsillie, Chairman and Co-CEO at Research In Motion. "Together with SMART, we will support the BlackBerry wireless platform for the first time in the Philippines serving both local organization as well as existing multi-national BlackBerry customers."

BlackBerry is the first wireless solution that integrates data and voice services while properly addressing the needs of both end users and IT departments. The dual band BlackBerry 6720 Wireless Handheld' features built-in e-mail, voice capability, text messaging, Internet browser and organizer applications which can synchronize with office PCs. And e-mail and calendar applications can also synchronize wirelessly with a user's office PC wirelessly, Over The Air (OTA). BlackBerry Enterprise Server software enables easy configuration and management as well as back-end integration with corporate systems and end-to-end security. The SMART GSM/GPRS network allows 'always on' connectivity for accessing data easily and quickly and also provides high-quality voice services on the same network.

BlackBerry was launched in North America in 1999, followed by Europe in 2001 and Asia Pacific in 2002. RIM has currently deployed or announced relationships with GSM/GPRS carriers in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia.

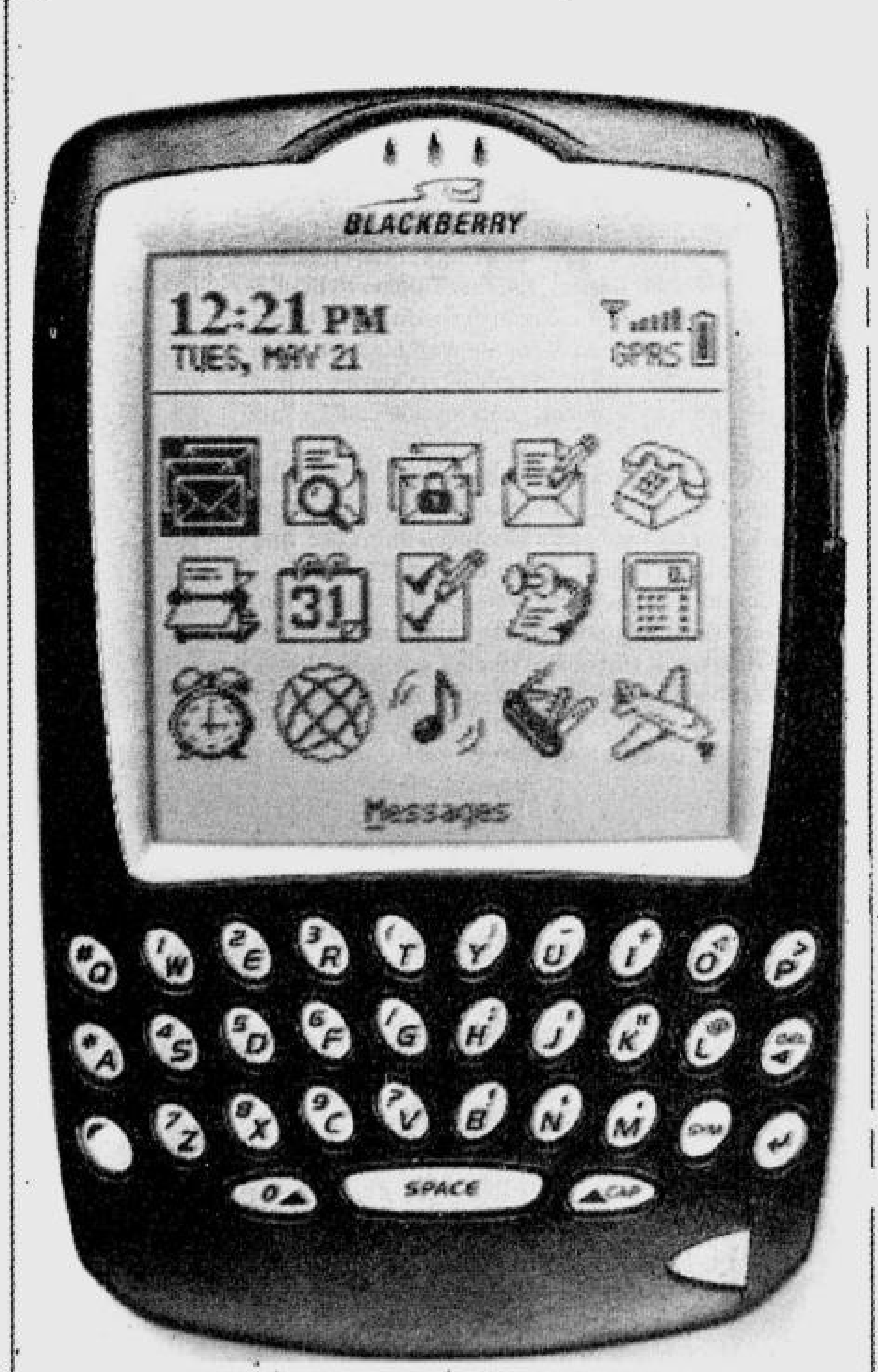
Further information regarding the availability, pricing and launch of BlackBerry for SMART's GSM/GPRS network will be announced at a later date.

About Research In Motion (RIM)

Research In Motion is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of innovative wireless solutions for the worldwide mobile communications market. Through the development of integrated hardware, software and services that support multiple wireless network standards, RIM provides platforms and solutions for seamless access to time-sensitive information including email, phone, SMS messaging, Internet and intranet-based applications. RIM technology also enables a broad array of third party developers and manufacturers to enhance their products and services with wireless connectivity to data. RIM's portfolio of award-winning products, services and embedded technologies are used by thousands of organizations around the world and include the BlackBerry" wireless platform, the RIM Wireless Handheld™ product line, software development tools, radio-modems and software/hardware licensing agreements. Founded in 1984 and based in Waterloo, Ontario, RIM operates offices in North America, Europe and Asia Pacific. RIM is listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market (Nasdaq: RIMM) and the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: RIM). For more information, just visit www.rim.com or www.blackberry.com.

About SMART Communications

A subsidiary of dominant Philippine carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PSE:TEL; NYSE:PHI), SMART Communications, Inc. is the leading Philippine wireless services provider with over 9 million subscribers served by its GSM network as of June 2002. It has developed and introduced innovative wireless services such as SMART Money, the award-winning electronic wallet linked to a cell phone service. It has also launched SMART Zed, a mobile portal for personalized services, in collaboration with Sonera Zed, a leading international provider of personalized information, communication and entertainment services for mobile phones. For more information, please visit www.smart.com.ph.



"Together with SMART we will offer the Java-based BlackBerry wireless platform to our existing multi-national customers and new users for the first time in the Philippines."

ADVT.

Trailblazers

By Rodolfo A.G. Silvestre Jr.

The *Rigodon* Queen

She may have been born into a musical family, but society choreographer Mariquita 'Bujing' Danao came upon her calling belatedly. Today, no glitzy ballroom affair is complete without one of her innovative numbers

"NO WAIT is ever too long," says Mariquita "Bujing" Danao, referring to the list of future milestones of favorite clients for which she is willing to choreograph either a *Rigodon de Honor* or a cotillon, 10 or even 15 years from now.

That's not just because she is a patient woman who painstakingly coaches first-time dancers until they get their steps right, but also because Bujing will never want for events. After all, she choreographs for the set that always has something to celebrate, whether it's a birthday, an alumni homecoming, or the club induction ball that traditionally starts with a *Rigodon de Honor*. Or it could just be another town fiesta when the cream of local society finds an excuse to dress up on a fine summer night.

It is only during rehearsals that Bujing, dressed in sneakers and slim jeans, takes center stage. "On the big night, they are the stars," she says.

Indeed, to the social set, Bujing is the "*maestra*." That's what Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called her when the President learned a few dance steps from Bujing for two Rotary affairs when she was still vice president of the Philippines. Senator Loi Ejercito was also under Bujing's tutelage for a cha-cha number when she was still a vice president's wife.

The names are endless, but to Bujing they are all students. "Which is not to say I don't give them due respect. I just want to be detached, and not be awed by their positions in life," she clarifies.

As a teacher, she does not favor anyone. "After all, it would not be right if I didn't correct someone's mistake, and then allowed him or her to commit it on the night of the performance. But of course, I don't shout at anybody, and neither do I single out the ones with two left feet."

Considered by many to be the Society Choreographer, Bujing protests the appellation, "lest people think I am such a snob, and my rates too high. I'd rather be known as everybody's choreographer. After all, I'm not limited to the Polo Club. I've done this in Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas, and even Capiz," she says. Interestingly, she does not mention her clients for these out-of-town sojourns, among them Judy Araneta Roxas or the Club Bulakeño.

But then, Bujing never dreamed of becoming a choreographer. "Never, as far as I could remember," says the middle of three daughters of the late band crooner Bimbo Danao, "the first Filipino to build a good image for our country's performing artists when he regaled the Japanese with his good voice and suave club acts in Tokyo's Latin Quarter. In that sense, he was a pioneer, and no one could equal him."

Bujing, along with her siblings, went through the "rigors of getting refined as young girls. That meant taking piano lessons which I didn't like, and taking dance lessons, which I enjoyed!"

For high school, she went to La Consolacion, where she danced during the annual *velada*. Later at Maryknoll, where she studied arts, Alice Reyes asked her to participate in folk dances presented during school programs. "It was a brief interlude, as I would get married early," explains Bujing.

The marriage would not last, and Bujing went on to try her luck in the entertainment world, then moved abroad, where she did office work. She eventually came home to open a dress shop in San Juan. It wasn't long before she was socializing and doing civic work, especially as a member of the Lions Club. And this led to an unpredictable turn of events, when she participated in a *Rigodon de Honor* that their club chapter, as a matter of tradition, presented during induction balls. "A choreographer came to teach us, but for some reason, he could not easily relate to my fellow participants. So, I ended up helping him. Before I knew it, he stopped reporting, and so I ended up as resident choreographer."

Another club would seek her expertise and soon, her reputation as an amiable choreographer spread. Another turning point came when Atty. Forting Aguas, then Club Filipino president, knocked on her door. Not only did she clinch the yearly commission for the Club Filipino Independence Day Ball; she also got her newly discovered talent exposed to Manila's social set.

Bujing started teaching dance formally in 1989. "It was very timely. Everyone wanted to dance, and no ball would start without a *Rigodon de Honor*," she recalls. "But then, the *Rigodon*, given its repetitive music, would be too long and the guests would start yawning after 45 minutes. Someone suggested that I introduce variations." The result was Bujing's 15-minute version of the stately dance. And then, she would do the *Rigodoncillo*, which had each of the four sides doing a different movement.

For some club women whose husbands would not dance, she choreographed *Rigodon de las Flores*. For the 50th anniversary of the Red Cross, Bujing choreographed the *Rigodon de Honor*. The debutantes, or their mothers, would not be left behind, so Bujing choreographed the first cotillon danced to Original Pilipino Music, but not without incorporating the 12 candles, 12 wishes and 12 roses.

Club Bulakeño would not be contented with the usual quadrille. Recently, no less than the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra provided music by Bulakeño National Artist Levi Celerio for a memorable *Rigodon*.

Bujing is a hard worker. A single night's performance is a result of painstaking rehearsals that Bujing conducts "seven times, and one general rehearsal, if it is a *Rigodon*. But depending on the dancers' capacity, it could be more."

Luckily for her, she has an assistant in niece Dalah Pia, Laura Danao's daughter. In rehearsals, Dalah acts as the male partner, which, Bujing acknowledges, "Dalah does so well that the participants sometimes joke about making her wear Barong Tagalog on the night itself, just in case."

A rehearsal is, of course, tedious, though never nerve-wracking. "It helps that Dalah and I come in right at the first rehearsal with a plan that shows the movements and the formations. This way, there are no surprises. We're not like others who choreograph on the spot," she says.

Bujing credits her success to her musical background, "because I myself mix the music. I know the performance will be good when I hear the participants humming the music when they are about to go home after a rehearsal. That means they could identify with the dance. If they enjoy the music, you can be sure they'll enjoy dancing. And when they enjoy what they're doing, they will surely turn out a very good performance."

The night of the affair often proves her right. "I just tell them, 'God trusts you, don't fail Him.' And it's really magic," she says. "You see them during the first rehearsal grappling with the steps, and on that night, you feel good, because they have done their best.

"For my part, my work is not over yet. I am also dressed for the occasion, just in case someone can't make it." She and Dalah have, in fact, participated in several *Rigodons* and ballroom medleys. "But I never act or dance or dress like I am the star," she emphasizes.

Once an affair is over, it is Bujing's policy to "say goodbye and that is it. I move on, knowing there are others who need me." But it's not really over. Come Christmas time or her birthday, Bujing receives a note or a simple gift from a grateful celebrator like Mellie Ablaza or the Villavicencios, and "it really makes me feel blessed twice when they remember me," she admits.

And then, the Rotarians, Zontans, the Lions, all these clubs keep coming back. The Red and White Ball of San Beda's alumni would not be complete without Bujing's opening dance number. And, of course, mothers have commissioned her in advance for their daughters' debuts, while young couples, this early, have jokingly extracted her promise to be there for their silver and golden wedding anniversaries.

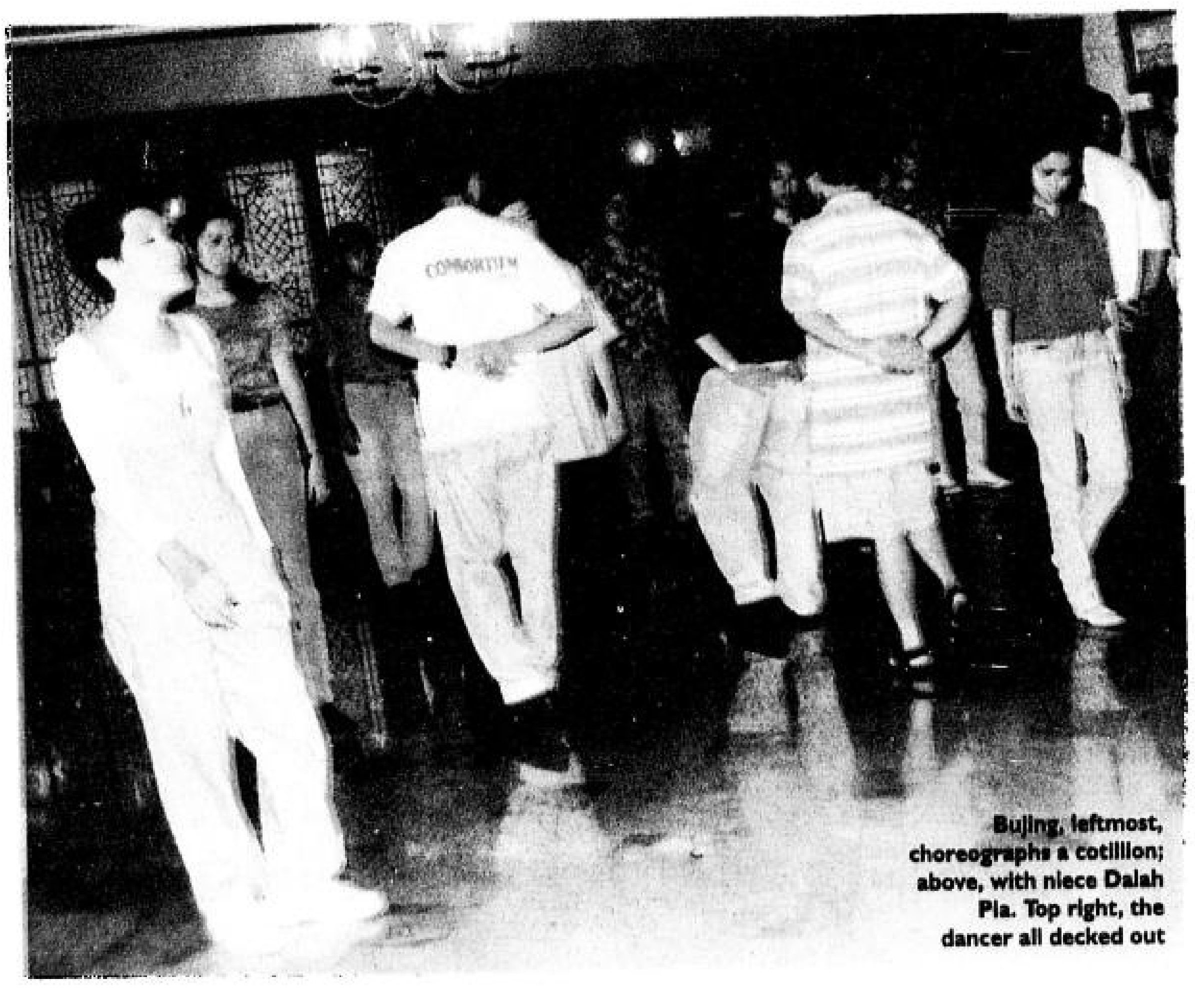
Although her calendar shows she is fully booked, Bujing takes a break now and then, and takes time to watch her old videos. She feels ecstatic that some of her pupils who started with two left feet ended up becoming adept on the dance floor. Others, of course, have been good dancers all along, and "it was just my luck that I was their choreographer."

It is her father, the late Bimbo Danao, who is tops on Bujing's list of inspirations, not for his dancing skills, though, but "because of the good he did for the succeeding generations of Filipino performers abroad. He made a difference, and he made the Filipino musicians respected and admired in Japan and, in a manner of speaking, the whole world."

To Bujing, "being a choreographer is my own way of serving my country. That's why I don't say no when Rotarians or other groups ask me to choreograph simple folk dances that they will show in their conventions abroad. They're not exactly experienced dancers, so I make sure the steps are very simple, but we do our best because we want our country to be represented very well."

For the same reason, she dreams of choreographing a *Rigodon de Honor* in Malacañang state functions, and in Philippine embassies abroad during Philippine holidays. "If I am able to inspire my dancers to do their best, and do what they never thought they could, that is more than a bonus.

"To have been asked to choreograph for a special occasion in their lives is honor enough," concludes Bujing. "I am at their service today and, with God's grace, I'll always be here for them."



Bujing, leftmost, choreographs a cotillion; above, with niece Dalah Pia. Top right, the dancer all decked out

This Week

Art

Raul Isidro is holding an exhibit of monoprints at the West Gallery, 4/F, SM Megamall A until May 13.

Lunar, a solo exhibit by Rom Villaseran, until May 9 at Galerie Astra, 2/F LRI Business Center, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. Featured are images of a lucid dreamworld he roamed as a child.

Joaquin Palencia and **Troy Ignacio** are holding separate solo shows until May 14 at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati. Palencia shows his recent collages while Ignacio mounts his works on paper done in black and white.

"Ihom Kite" by Joaquin Palencia, on exhibit at The Drawing Room

Czech Baroque Heritage, an exhibit of 40 photographs that will take you back to the 17th and 18th centuries, the golden era of Czech architecture and art, until May 15 at the San Agustin Museum.

Dwellings, a two-man exhibit by Wire Rommel Tuazon and Keiye Miranda-Tuazon from May 6-18 at Finale Art Gallery, 4/F, SM Megamall A.

Biyaya features the latest works of Kasibulan, a group of women artists, in celebration of its femininity and role in society, May 6-19 at the mezzanine of Traders Hotel Manila.

Cordillera, a solo exhibit by Waling Waling Gorospe at Cafe Juan Soy in Greenbelt I until May 24.

Music

Sandra Falcon-Agostini and Guillaume Compain appear in "Cabaret!"

Intimate Threesomes, an MCO Foundation concert featuring the music of Mozart, Luigi Boccherini and Mikhail Glinka to be performed by violinists Reginald and Olga Pineda, violinist Donald Kidd, cellist Arnold Josue, clarinetists Ariel Sta. Ana and Raymond Lazaro, bassoonist Noel Singcuenco and pianist Maryanne Espina, May 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank, Tower I. Tickets available at all Ticketworld outlets (tel. 891-5610) or call the MCO Foundation at 840-7000 loc. 2258 or the Clarion Chamber Ensemble at 844-4172.

Praia de Ipanema Bar and Restaurant in Eastwood City Walk marks a month-long celebration of life and music featuring Jimmy Bondoc on Mondays, Essence on Tuesdays, MYMP (Make Your Mama Proud) on Wednesdays, and Hour Glass with Ria Villena alternating with Dominic Burton on Thursdays. Friday and Saturday nights are dedicated to R&B and fiesta parties. For inquiries, call 421-7764 to 65.

Onstage

Alliance Francaise de Manille presents **Cabaret!**, a collaborative work between French choreographers and dancers Guillaume Compain and Sandra Falcon-Agostini on May 6 and 7, 9 p.m. at the Baluarte de San Diego in Intramuros, May 9 and 10, 7:30 p.m.; May 10 and 11, 3 p.m. at the DLSU-College of Saint Benilde. Cabaret! is a dance concert inspired by the lavish production of "Moulin Rouge." Compain and Agostini will be joined by the best local dance artists from various dance companies, giving the audience a unique blend of artistry and theater. For ticket reservations, call 426-7911 or email events_creators@hotmail.com.

Cinema

pelikula@titus-brandsma presents "All That Jazz" by Bob Fosse, "Piko" by Anna Gonzales and "Queen Margot" by Patrice Chereau on May 10, 1 p.m. at Titus Brandsma Center (24 Acacia St., Cubao, Quezon City). For details, call 726-7763 (Jofti) or 751-1169 (Maxie).

Atbp

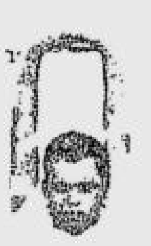
The Golden Mother & Father Foundation is now accepting nominations for the **23rd Annual *Alay kay Inay & Itay* Awards.** Since 1980, the awards have acknowledged numerous mothers and fathers in the fields of education, law, government service, religious sector, media, arts, business, medicine, sports and etc. Special awards like the "Golden Mother/Father Award," "Ideal Mother/ Father Achiever Award," and the "Celebrity Mother/ Father Award" are also given. Nominees should be at least 50 years old and must have at least a child. They should belong to a family with good moral standing in their community. Send resumé with four 2x2 pictures to GMFF Secretariat at 405 United Nations Ave. cor. Roxas Blvd., Ermita. For inquiries, call 404-2818 or 404-2302, or e-mail gmff1980@yahoo.com. Deadline for submission is on May 9.

A **Poetry Writing Workshop for Beginners** will be held on May 6, 8, 13, and 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library. This basic level course introduces poetry to students through an intensive four-part workshop. Through several reading and writing activities and interactions, this workshop aims to guide students in the writing of poetry brought on by the personal. Workshop fee is P1,500 inclusive of handouts. Selected works will be published in the Philippines Free Press. For details, call 892-1801.

There are free **Falun Dafa lessons** every Sunday at 7 a.. at the QC Circle. Falun Dafa is an ancient Chinese cultivation practice with five gentle, easy-to-learn qigong exercises and meditation. For details, call 0919-4047829 or 0916-4334988.

Discover photography through **Photoworks**, a six-day workshop designed to help you build a strong foundation on the art and craft of photography. Class 5 will be held every Monday and Wednesday, 7-10 p.m. starting May 26 at 4/F, OAC Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center (near Pearl Drive). For details, call Leo at 0917-9580818 or email leocast@yahoo.com.

Prakash Singh Bisht, Mandarin Oriental Manila's resident yoga instructor, conducts **therapeutic yoga classes** focused on back pain from May 13-25. There will be a morning class from 9 to 10 a.m. and an evening class from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and another evening class from 8:30 to 9:30 on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. A minimum of three students will be admitted in each class. Deadline for registration is May 12. For details, call 750-8888 ext. 2101.



Pure yoga classes at the Mandarin Oriental

Heritage Gallery is holding a **summer art workshop** on drawing, painting and terra cotta sculpting. For details, call 634-2436.

An **Art in Crafts workshop** will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Museo Pambata from 2-5 p.m. Lessons include terra cotta clay sculpting, pastillas wrapper-making and mosaics. For details, call 523-1797 to 98.

A **free introductory lecture on Improving Your Eyesight Naturally** will be held on May 10, 4-6 p.m. at the Center for Health and Creative Arts, 59 Salvador St., Loyola Heights, QC. Workshop dates are May 17, 24, 31 and June 7. For reservations, call 434-5381.

The National Museum will conduct a **Basic Museology Training** at the Conference Room, Old Congress Building, Manila from May 6-23. The extensive 14-day training touches on the various phases of museum work. For details, 527-0278.

Sinag Arts Foundation will hold a **Technical Director's Workshop** on May 12-17 to be facilitated by Takahashi Hojo of Nike StageWorks, Tokyo. Workshop fee is P6,000 inclusive of lunch. The Awareness of Light: Lighting Design Workshop will be held on May 18-25 with Naomi Matsumoto facilitating. Registration fee is P7,000. Workshop showcase will be on May 25 featuring the Hiraya Men's Chorus. Showcase is invitational only. Tickets for sale are available for the May 31 and June 1 shows. All workshops to be held at the Sinag Arts Studio, 664 San Ignacio St., Brgy. Plainview, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, call 531-3491.

Enjoy great discounts on all cash purchases of **Travel Books** at the Filipinas Heritage Library's Libros Filipinos until May 31. Available are guide books, maps, essays, materials on eco tourism and coffee-table books. Libros Filipinos is a specialty bookstore dedicated to Philippine books, journals, magazines, videos, music and multimedia. It is open Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For details, call 892-1801.

Businessmaker Academy will hold the following seminars: Effective Sales Communication Techniques (May 9), Effective Events Planning and Management (May 9/24); Creative Balloon Arrangements for Fun and Profit (May 9); How to Start and Manage Your Own Business (May 10/23); Personal Image Enhancement (May 10/28); Creative Bead Accessories for Fun & Profit (May 10); Effective Business Communication: Job Interview (May 16); Creative Watercolor and Pastel Art (May 16); Guide to Accounting for Non-Accountants (May 17/30); Effective Inventory Management (May 17); Creative Floral Arrangement for Weddings and Parties (May 17); Creative Writing for Fun & Profit (May 23); Personal Health Management (May 24); Creative Photography for Fun & Profit (May 24); Effective Business Communication: Business Writing (May 30); Personal Money Management with Introduction to Investing (May 31), and Effective Business Communication: Business Presentations (May 31). Workshops to be held at Businessmaker Academy in Tektite from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For inquiries, call 687-4445 and 687-3416.

Learn the basic 24 movements of **Tai Chi**, an ancient way of exercise to achieve health and tranquility at Magallanes Village, Makati City. For details, call August at 852-3949 or text 0917-7914129.

ProActive Center for Training invites restaurateurs, hoteliers, resort and canteen operators to an eight-day **training course on Managing a Restaurant/Canteen** on May 7-16, 1 to 6 p.m. at Sari-Sari Cafeteria, Eastwood Citywalk, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. For reservations, call 787-6370.

The grand prize winner of the **2003 PBBY-Alcala Illustrators' Prize** is Hubert Fucio, a freelance artist. He will receive a gold medal from The National Library and a cash prize from the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Philippine Board on Books for Young People. These will be given during the formal PBBY Awarding Ceremonies at the CCP on National Children's Book Day on July 15.The PBBY-Alcala Illustrator's Prize in an annual activity open to all Filipinos. For details about the contest, call 372-3548.

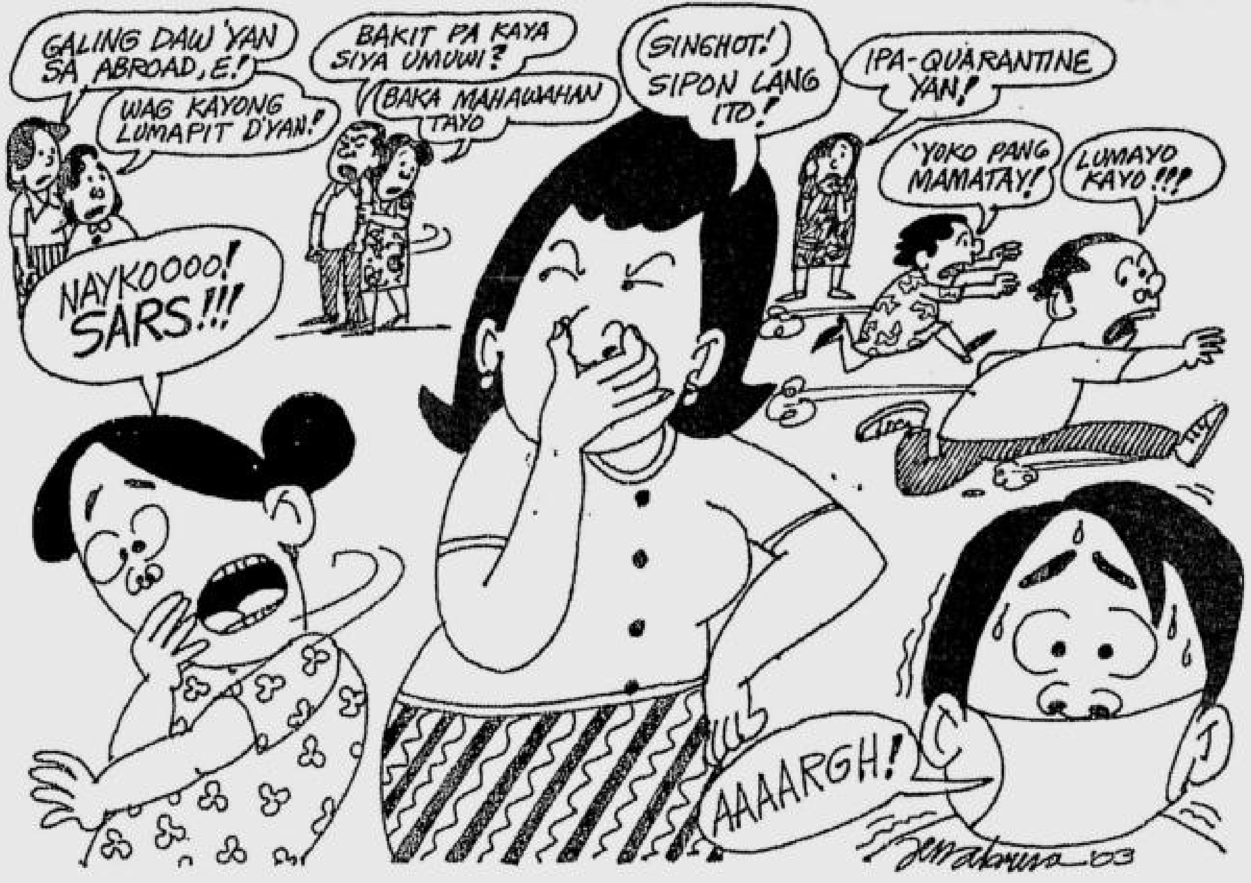
For this week's bands and schedules call:
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

Pinoy Nga

By Jess Abrera

SARS



GALING DAW 'YAN SA ABROAD, E!
WAG KAYONG LUMAPIT D'YAN!
BAKIT PA KAYA SIYA UMUWI?
BAKA MAHAWAHAN TAYO
(SINGHOT!) SIPON LANG ITO!
IPA-QUARANTINE YAN!
'YOKO PANG MAMATAY!
LUMAYO KAYO!!!
NAYKOOOO! SARS!!!
AAAARGH!
Abrera 03

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Post-Easter Questions

Like Thomas, we want a sign that Jesus is really alive, present, and at work today even if all we see around us are poverty, injustice, hatred, envy and sickness

1. Is it a sin to be a Doubting Thomas?

At first glance, many of us might think it is. In fact, Thomas, for a while, was made to appear like a "*contravida*" in the Easter Gospel of John (Jn. 20:24).

When his friends reported to him that Jesus was not really dead but alive and present, Thomas bargained for a sign. "Unless I see and touch His wounds," he demanded, "I will not believe." When Jesus appeared for the second time, Thomas got his sign. Jesus allowed him to see and touch his wounds. And at that moment Thomas was healed!

There seems to be nothing wrong with asking for a sign as Thomas did. Why? Because there seemed to be nothing around him that told him that Jesus was really alive. All he saw were signs of death: mourning, sadness, fear, violence in the streets and the indifference of the people outside.

We are like Thomas in many ways. Every Easter Sunday, we go to church and light our Easter candles, sing allelulas and proclaim that Jesus is alive. But when we read the newspapers after the Mass, when we walk down the street, we don't see enough signs to tell us that Jesus is really alive.

Like Thomas, all we see around us is not the power of Jesus but the power of evil: poverty, injustice, loneliness, hatred, envy, sickness, exploitation, selfishness, division, war.

Like Thomas, we want a sign that Jesus is really alive, present and at work today. We want to experience his power. We want to meet and touch people manifesting that power: people sowing love where there is hatred, kindling hope where there is despair, bringing light and joy where there is nothing but darkness and sadness, and giving of themselves where there is so much selfishness.

Like Thomas, we want to see that Jesus is not dead, but alive and active in his people. We are looking for witnesses.

We are looking for "small communities of believers united in heart and soul, where no one claims for himself anything that he has, where everything is owned and used in common." (Acts 4:32)

We are looking for "communities where none of the members was ever in want because all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money for the apostles to dispose of and distribute to those who might be in need." (Acts 4:34-35)

We are looking for "communities where no one is an outcast, where each one welcomes all and shares what he has with others; where meals are shared with glad and humble hearts, praising God and giving witness to all the people." (Acts 2:44-47)

2. Is it okay to accept the apparent reality that God is dead just because we seem to be living in a "culture of death"?

On the first Easter morning, Mary of Magdala hurried to the tomb and found the body of Jesus gone (Jn. 20). "He's dead, alright," she said to herself, "but they have stolen his body," as if she was surrendering readily to the idea that Jesus was dead, indeed.

Peter also rushed to the tomb. "The tomb is empty," Peter reported, again as if he was surrendering without protest to the idea that Jesus was conclusively dead.

Thomas, too, was resigned to the idea of a dead Christ. "I refuse to believe," he said, "until I can touch the death marks on his risen body." And indeed, the risen Christ suddenly appeared before him with all of his five wounds gloriously exposed for Thomas' tactile examination. And then, he believed.

In other words, the disciples of Jesus were the first to register their awkward surrender to the finality of death, as if to say, "What can we do? Jesus is dead, and that's it." That exactly seemed to have been the mindset of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24).

Only the "disciple whom Jesus loved" (Jn. 20:2) believed, not because he saw and touched Jesus but because he loved.

Are we to behave like Mary of Magdala, Peter, Thomas and the Emmaus disciples who simply yielded to the "culture of death," and, surrendering to the finality of death without a whimper of protest, say with a cold shrug: "What can we do? He's dead and that's it!" Or, must we yell, rattle and roll, "Hey, wait a minute. We protest. Jesus is not dead. He is alive, and we believe him!" We call this our "resurrection faith."

3. What did Jesus and the Apostles feel when they met again after the Resurrection? Did the apostles feel guilty and embarrassed? Did Jesus feel like penalizing them for being cowards?

The Apostles, on that Easter morning, felt at home with their friend Jesus by the lake. They felt at peace with him and with themselves because they did not have to wear masks before Jesus. They did not have to pretend to defend themselves or to prove anything to Jesus who knew them fully and loved them fully anyway. They felt confident and free to be who they were in the presence of one who died for them precisely because they were not perfect. With Jesus, and in Jesus, the Apostles felt fully alive and truly free.

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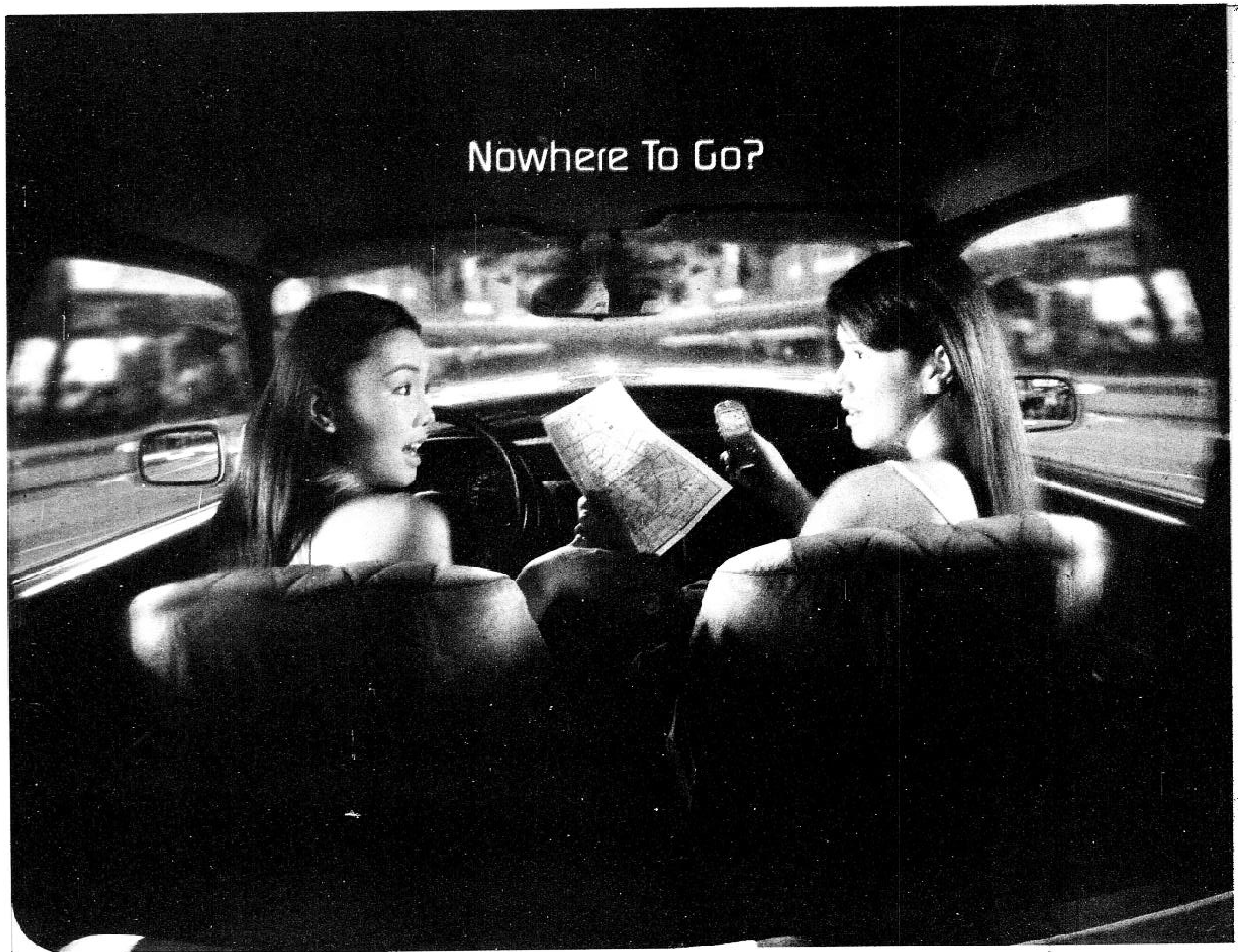
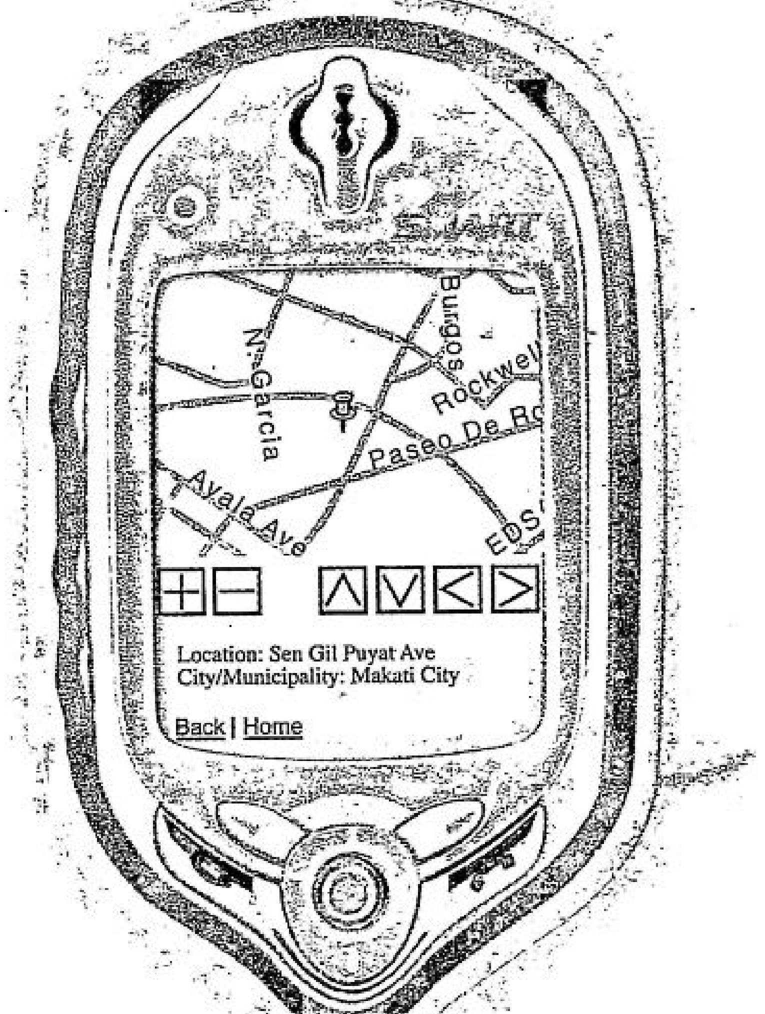

Nowhere To Go?

Know Where To Go!



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